

July 1946

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CONSUMERS' RESEARCH

Bulletin

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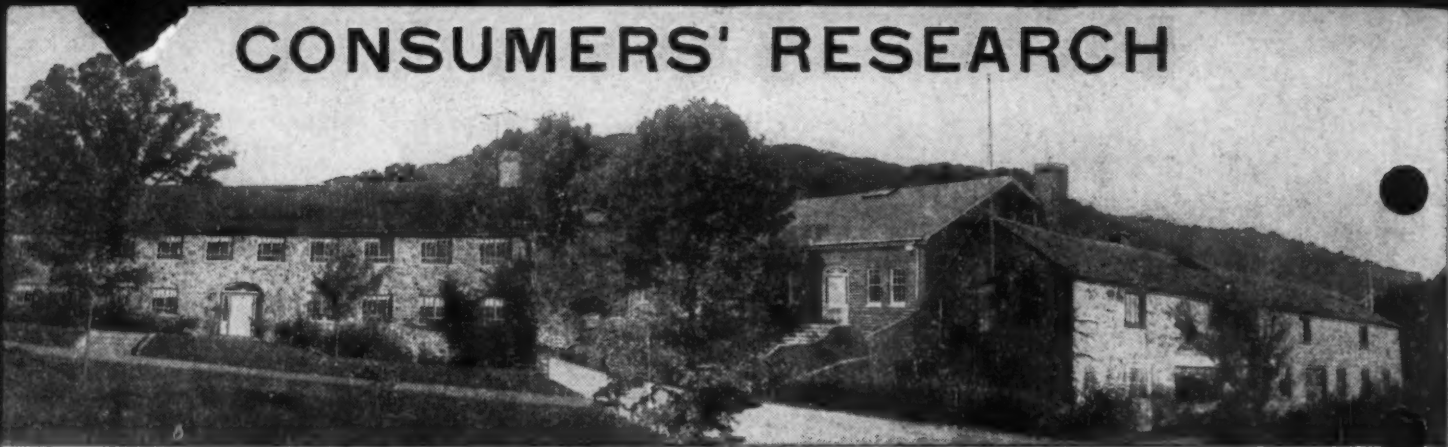
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CONSUMERS' RESEARCH



Vol. 18 • No. 1

BULLETIN

July 1946

Off the Editor's Chest

IT is nearly a year now since that spontaneous two-day holiday took place which celebrated the American people's exuberant rejoicing at the end of a long-drawn and costly war waged at great cost of men and the national resources in a multitude of foreign lands. Those who had hopes on the happy day when the news of the war's end broke that the privation and sacrifice would shortly be a thing of the past have been rudely disillusioned by the trend of subsequent events. The supply of butter which has been inadequate since V-J Day, has now approached the vanishing point. There has even been a bread shortage, in spite of the fact that there was a bumper wheat crop in 1944 and that the 1945 crop was the biggest in the nation's history. Cotton clothing, men's shirts, and undershirts, and other essential apparel are hard to find, and practically non-existent if one looks for reasonable prices and pre-war quality. Much-needed electrical appliances make their appearance in local stores only one or two at a time, and at infrequent intervals. The list of once-plentiful items of daily living that still cannot be bought could be multiplied at length.

Since it has become the currently accepted thing to look to the government in Washington to "fix things up," this is perhaps as good a time as any to look back to the early days of the war preparations to see just what plans were made to care for consumers' needs and how well these plans were carried out. Have we been deprived by plan, or through failure of officialdom and its social and economic "planning"? In a speech on the

government's war mobilization methods made on December 28, 1940, copies of which were distributed by official government sources, Miss Caroline F. Ware, described as Assistant to Miss Harriet Elliott, Consumer Commissioner, National Defense Advisory Commission, said:

We cannot now know how successful our present methods of industrial mobilization will be, or what unforeseen changes may take place before the emergency has run its uncertain course. Whatever the final outcome, however, the work of these months constitutes an experiment of major significance. The further we can go with the techniques and processes of democratic planning, the more significant this experiment will be. *The acid test is whether by these methods we can put aircraft production on a mass production basis and get three-thirds of our people decently housed and clothed and well fed.* (Emphasis ours—CR.)

Official propaganda emanating from Washington at that time generally took the tone that it was entirely possible in a country of such great resources and productive capacity as the United States to have both guns and butter if we would just all work happily together. As the Consumer Commissioner herself pointed out in a speech in April 1941:

Consumers are eager to see the defense program pushed forward as vigorously as possible. To facilitate it they will be ready to make sacrifices if and when they are necessary. What they will object to is the requirement of sacrifices that are unnecessary—sacrifices that could be avoided by proper planning and proper

(Continued on page 31)

Scientific and Technical Experts and Editors: F. J. Schlink, R. Joyce, M. C. Phillips, A. R. Greenleaf, and Charles L. Bernier. **Editorial Assistant:** Mary F. Roberts.

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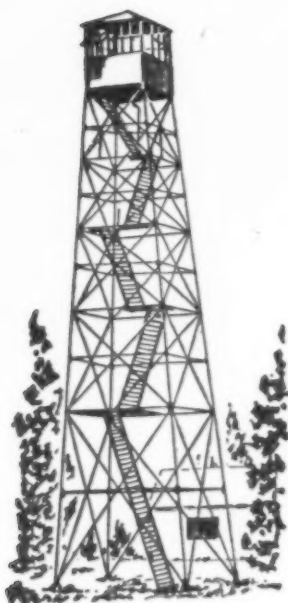
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*CR will, of course, gladly change addresses for men and women in the services as often as required by changes in station and other circumstances.

★★★For a brief cumulative index of 1946 BULLETINS preceding this issue, see page 24.

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The Consumers' Observation Post

LUMBER, which is difficult to obtain at regular lumber yards and from established building suppliers, is now a bootleg commodity in certain sections of the country. In the South, small mills, quickly and easily set up, are reported to be furnishing 50 to 65 percent of Southern lumber at prices that run to three times the OPA ceiling prices in some cases. Similar operations are reported to prevail, although to a smaller extent, in the northwestern lumber sections. The law of supply and demand apparently has considerable vitality in spite of OPA. What people need, people will pay to get, and others will work to supply. The bootleg lumber operators are wasteful of natural resources, for they have not learned or do not care to apply the conservation techniques of large operators, and so they cut down small-sized trees along with the full grown.

* * *

MEXICO is not a paradise for tourists traveling by automobile. Accommodations are exceedingly scarce, warns the American Automobile Association. Tires are hard to find, although they are to be had for around \$100 in the black market. A strike on Mexican railways cut down on supplies of gasoline, and motorists who do make the trip to Mexico City and elsewhere are advised to carry five or ten gallons in cans for emergencies. The Association does not recommend a trip to Mexico for motorists this year. On the other hand, vacationists in the vicinity of El Paso, Texas, will find plentiful supplies just across the border, in Juarez, of such items as nylon hose, white shirts, steaks, sugar, Scotch whiskey, and beer. The prices range from \$4.95 a pair for nylons to a markup of 50¢ more per bottle than average for Scotch. Visitors to Cuba also report plentiful supplies of women's silk and nylon hose and men's white broadcloth shirts.

* * *

OLD STOCKS OF CANNED VEGETABLES are expected to disappear from grocers' shelves as the result of the Emergency Food Collection famine relief collection campaign that began in May. One government official from the Commerce Department, which is sponsoring the drive, has pointed out that the extra demand that may be stimulated by the collection will help to "siphon off" standard grades of canned peas, beets, green and wax beans. Standard grade, it should be noted, is third or low grade with respect to quality and one which CR rates as C. Not Recommended. The grocers will undoubtedly be glad to get rid of their third-grade canned vegetables before the new packs arrive on the market.

* * *

LEARNING TO BAKE BREAD at home may take less of the homemaker's time than searching from store to store for it, or standing in a breadline. The present shortage is likely to be severe until late August, according to an executive of one of the large flour mills. Recipes are available from many of the flour mills, whose addresses will be found on flour bags. "Homemade Bread, Cake, and Pastry," Farmers' Bulletin 1775, which gives a number of recipes, can undoubtedly be obtained without charge from your congressman or senator. The chief disadvantage in starting to supply the family with homemade bread is that homemade bread tastes so good, the family won't want to go back to "store" bread when the emergency is past. Also the family will undoubtedly eat more bread and so use up more flour.

DENTURE ADHESIVE POWDERS for holding plates in position have recently come in for extensive consideration by the American Dental Association. Therapeutic claims of benefits from the use of various commercial products have been made by the manufacturers. Although the Council on Dental Therapeutics of the A.D.A. has not yet completed its investigations, it has already issued the statement that powdered gum tragacanth, generally available in drugstores, is a satisfactory adhesive and it is not necessary to purchase some commercial product of unknown composition.

* * *

"NEVER have I seen people spend so much money and get so little for it," commented the head of a well-known department store early this year, in discussing the effect of OPA's system of price control. Another department store executive stated that he could demonstrate by specific examples that since March 1942, taking into consideration quality deterioration, the price of men's shirts had increased 93 percent; boys' shirts, 90 percent; and women's cotton dresses, 147 percent. Textile and garment trade observers are wondering when a buyers' strike similar to the one that took place in 1920 will begin. There is considerable talk of the imminence of some such development at this time.

* * *

WIRE FENCING should be bought only if urgently needed, at the present time. Wise purchasers will be well-advised to wait until they can be assured in each case that pre-war conditions and performance of the product have returned. There is an enormous difference in the life of poorly coated and properly coated wire; a light coating of zinc (0.30 ounce of zinc per sq. ft. of wire surface) may permit rust in some locations in two years, while heavily coated wire may last twenty to twenty-five years before rusting takes place. The cost of a good heavy coating is very small indeed, compared with the saving due to the greatly increased life of the fence. An 80 rod roll of barbed wire with 0.30-ounce coating costs \$3.20, with an 0.80-ounce coating \$3.45. The cost of the fence wire per year is less than half as great for the 0.80-ounce coating, whose life till rusting occurs is nearly 3 times as great as the fence costing 25¢ less per roll. (Similar results apply to woven wire fencing as the barbed wire.)

* * *

DO THE NEW MAGNESIUM SKILLETS represent a hazard in the home in view of the known high and dangerous combustibility of magnesium, much used during the war in incendiary bombs and for similar purposes, is a question raised by informed consumers. Reports from a qualified consultant indicate that there should be no hazard due to danger of ignition. Finely divided magnesium will burn very readily, but as soon as it is in large pellets or lumps, it is very difficult to do anything that would cause it to ignite. This resistance to ignition of the metal is due to the high heat conductivity of the magnesium in solid masses. It is also said that a year's experience with magnesium utensils in service has resulted in no untoward occurrence. The high conductivity of magnesium is, of course, very favorable to its use in cookery. One important practical problem which this high conductivity involves is in providing a handle that will remain cool enough to be taken hold of when the utensil is hot. On the question of possible toxicity, the situation with respect to magnesium is believed to be more favorable than aluminum. Magnesium is typically present in hard waters, and sometimes in appreciable amounts. Magnesium sulfate is, of course, a well-known saline laxative, but the quantities involved in dosages of that salt are very large indeed compared to those that might be ingested through the use of magnesium cooking utensils.

* * *

MOST OF THE FOUNTAIN PENS offered during the war period and up to the present time have been either of poor quality or have been extremely high-priced. (Very high-priced pens beginning at \$10 up to \$100 have been readily available, and apparently a lot of people have bought these pens for gifts because they could get nothing else that seemed attractive.) By far the best buy under present conditions is the Esterbrook, which has recently supplied dealers again with a model that can be bought at \$1.50. Interchangeable point sections are available at 25¢, 50¢, or 75¢, according to the finish and durability of nibs desired by the purchaser.

(The continuation of this section is on page 29)



Non-Automatic Toasters

THE production of toasters, as well as nearly all other electrical appliances, has suffered from the vicissitudes of the reconversion period, delayed and confused by a great number of major strikes and material shortages and by unworkable price controls. As a result, pre-World-War-I models seem to have been copied in the post-World-War-II era, with all the numerous faults of design and other defects of the earlier toasters. Many manufacturers who, judging by the constructional details and performance of their products, have not had previous experience with toasters and have not studied the problem at all from the engineers' standpoint, are scrambling for quick profits. In the meantime, many of the old-line manufacturers are struggling with OPA red tape and other discouraging problems, and are not able to turn out more than a very few toasters, perhaps none at all.

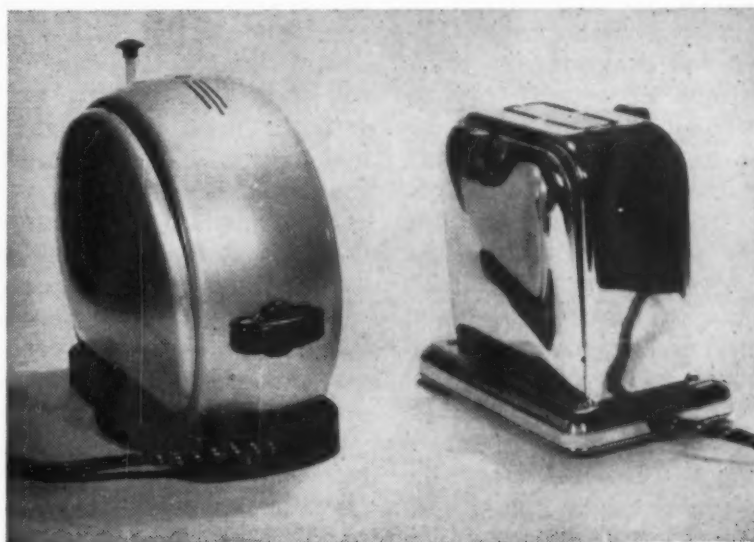
The reheating of bread at toasting temperatures changes some of the starch content of the flour into dextrin, and this changes the taste and aroma of the bread. The possibility of making bread that is several days old more palatable is another reason for the use of toast. With the "save bread" campaigns now being fostered, a well-made toaster can play an important part in salvaging stale bread. Unfortunately, if the toasters covered in this report are representative of the new production, and there is good reason to believe that they are, much

of the bread is as likely to be wasted as saved.

Compared with expensive modern toasters (still unavailable), toasters of the old style that are now available are at best not very satisfactory. The standard toaster of the most widely sold type lacks both cut-off to stop operation when the right temperature and time have

CR's Tests

Six non-automatic toasters (five different brand names) were purchased and subjected to tests for performance, power input and wattage. Shock hazard was checked and temperature readings were also taken at various parts of the toasters that are touched by the fingers,



Merit Made

Toast Queen

On both these toasters the door fitted badly, with an angular crack showing.

been reached, and a signal device to indicate when toast is done; thus it requires constant vigilance on the part of the operator to keep the toast from being burned and rendered unfit for use. The relatively low-priced non-automatic toasters are the only kind that are available on the market in reasonable numbers at the present time.

and determinations were made of temperatures at the table top. The appliances were also given a critical engineering examination for workmanship and durability.

Performance

Toasting tests were made from a cold start and again after the toaster had warmed



Toast at right is typical of the quite uneven toasting produced by all of the toasters in this report. The toast at the left, made by an automatic toaster now being investigated, is more evenly browned and typical of toasters of good performance, whether automatic or non-automatic. (The half tone shows the toast at the left considerably darker in appearance than it was actually.)

up for 15 minutes. The times for toasting given in the listings are after warming up. The times for cold starting were with one exception approximately 50% longer. The designs of all the toasters were such that they burned the top edge and tended to burn the upper area of the bread slice. (Some were very bad in this respect.) This defect is due to failure of the toaster manufacturers to use the services of engineers who would take account of the distribution of temperature produced by the radiant heat from the hot resistance wire, as modified by proper ventilation of the toasters at the top. Not one of the six samples tested was properly ventilated to give good temperature distribution, which fundamentally underlies the problem of making good toast.

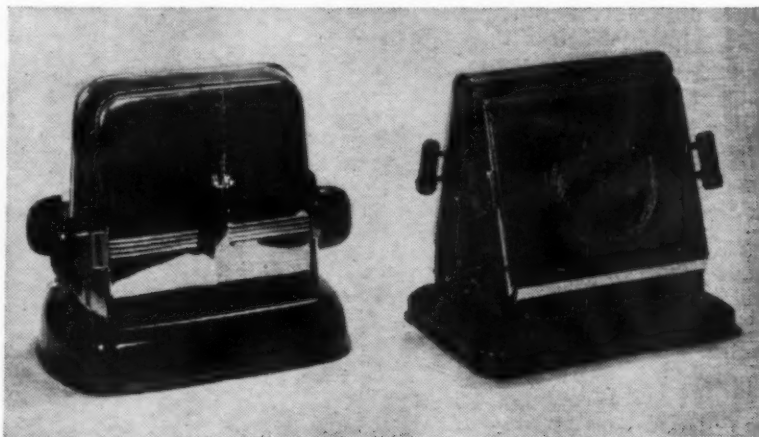
All of the toasters were of the well-known "flip-flop" type which turns or flips the slice of bread when the doors of the toaster are opened. Proper design to produce this result is not difficult, but the toasters tested, except for the *Nelson 94T*, did not do a good job of turning the toast. On one make, the clearances were such

that the slice readily fell between the door and the guard wires and jammed the door; then the user would be likely to get burned in trying to extricate the toast from where it had lodged. On some others, the slice did not turn over without manual help from the user. The *Nelson*, Model 410A, was the worst in this respect.

In general, the electrical energy consumed by the toasters was larger than their light construction and poor design as to ventilation warranted. With respect to electrical insulation, all the samples gave a good ac-

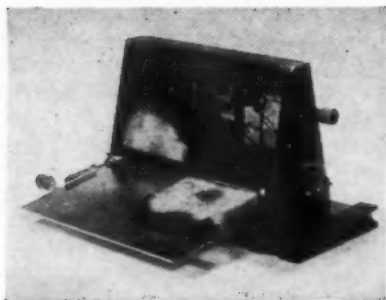
count of themselves, for there were no failures on the 900-volt breakdown or the leakage current tests.

The heating elements were of the conventional ribbon type wound on mica forms. Some of the toasters, as noted in the listings, lacked sturdiness and were assembled in insubstantial fashion. All had the defect common to electrical appliances—and this applies pretty much to expensive ones as well as the cheap ones—of not being so constructed that the heating element could be replaced simply and conveniently. Also in common with a great many cheap electrical and mechanical appliances, and many that are not so cheap, the sheet-metal parts were usually held together by tabs passed through small slots and bent or twisted—a method commonly employed in sheet-metal toys for children, and in wide use in metal appliance manufacturing because of the few pennies which it saves in construction. This method of assembly makes it practically impossible for the layman or even the expert to disassemble an appliance for repair without risk of



Lady Dover

Dominion



Nelson, Model 410A

With this toaster, pieces of bread frequently fell between the door and the guard wires, as shown in the picture. When this occurred, the door was jammed and the toast had to be extracted, with imminent risk of burning fingers or the toast, or both.



weakening or breaking one or more of the tabs and perhaps ruining the appliance in the attempt. (Twisted—or bent—tab assembly methods would be unobjectionable in some cases, where the appliance or other article was one which it would not be necessary to disassemble during its life for repair or replacement of a burned-out or defective part.)

For convenient use at the table, it is most important that a toaster have an on-off switch, but none of the toasters in this test were so equipped.

Actual watts at 118 volts are given, with rated watts, where shown, given in parentheses. Except as noted, doors were operated independently by means of knobs at top or sides, and the toasters were of two-slice capacity.

C. Not Recommended

Nelson, Cat. No. 94T (Nelson Machine Mfg. Co., Cleveland) Zone 1, \$1.80; Zone 2, \$1.90. No appliance cord provided. Body and base of sheet iron, black-paint coated. Doors, nickel-plated steel, satin finish. When doors were opened, their upper edges rested on the table. As they were, of course, at a very high temperature (280°F approximately) a varnished table top would be damaged. Construction of heating element judged flimsy,

with wire of very small cross section. Wattage, 430 (500—too large disparity between rated and actual watts). Time for two pieces of toast, both sides, 2 minutes 25 seconds. Toasting of one side of the piece was even, the other side uneven with scorched edges; nevertheless this toaster came the nearest to producing satisfactory toast of any in the group. This toaster was easy to load and clean. Workmanship, poor, and fastening of parts was by bending of tabs (undesirable; see text). Durability and quality judged poor. Construction such as to make toaster not worth repairing in case of failure. **1**

Lady Dover, Cat. No. 21-901 (Knapp Monarch Co., St. Louis) \$3.80. Equipped with a detachable cord and plug of good quality. Body, light-gauge plated steel. Doors, highly polished chromium-plated steel. Base, steel coated with brown enamel finish. Heating element wires, thin with corresponding probability of relatively short life. Wattage, 414 (400). Time for two pieces of toast, both sides, 1 minute. Did a very uneven job of toasting, with burning of crust at top of slice. Easy to load and clean. Workmanship, fair. Appliance was assembled by riveting and by bending of tabs (see text). Durability should be fairly good. Plug terminals lacked customary (and obviously necessary) guard to prevent accidental contact with live terminals when connecting plug, but the appliance nevertheless bore the Underwriters' approval. Possibility of shock or burn from contact of the fingers or some metal article with partially exposed terminals when the toaster is being connected. Guarantee tag states that defects due to faulty material or workmanship will be repaired free of charge, if returned to factory prepaid within one year. **2**

Nelson, Cat. No. 410A (Nelson Machine Mfg. Co.) \$3.65 (Zone 1 price). Four-slice capacity. No cord provided. Body and base of steel, coated with black paint. Top of shell and doors, nickel-plated steel, dull finish. The wide spacing of the wire forming the heating element resulted in streaked and uneven toasting. Workmanship and finish, poor. Judged fairly easy to clean and load. Wattage, 680 (800—a much too large dis-



Nelson, Model 94T

The top of the doors, which reach a high temperature, rest on the table when the toaster is opened, and hence produced a burned streak or strip on the varnished surface.



parity between rated and actual watts, but actual wattage nevertheless too high for the type of construction). Because of the high heat output, the toaster quickly damaged the table top. Time for four pieces of toast, both sides, 1 minute 50 seconds (calculated time per two pieces, 55 seconds). Toasting uneven, central and lower parts of slice being moist and undone. Edges burned. Construction considered flimsy, which would make for poor durability. Assembled with bent tabs. **2**

Dominion, Model No. 1101 (Dominion Electric Mfg. Inc., Mansfield, Ohio) \$4.40. Equipped with detachable cord set of unsatisfactory quality. Cord itself had Underwriters' approval label. Body and base of steel, coated with black paint. Doors, chromium-plated steel. Door handles poorly attached. Temperature of handles and appliance plug, excessive; surface of table under toaster scorched. Mica of one heating element badly warped. Wattage, 462 (450). Time for two pieces of toast, both sides, 2 minutes 25 seconds. Toasting, uneven, with crust burnt at top. Easy to load and clean. Workmanship, poor. Assembled by riveting and bending of tabs (undesirable). Shell and doors may stand up well except for painted parts of shell and base, but wooden handles and feet would probably have short life. Wooden handles on doors insecure (poorly attached). Plug terminals lacked common and necessary guard to prevent accidental contact of fingers with

live terminals when connecting plug. 3

Merit-Made E-Z Flip, Model Z (Merit-Made Inc., Merit Bldg., 33-37 Franklin St., Buffalo 2) \$5.95. Equipped with good quality cord. Body and doors, aluminum, satin finish; base, steel, black finish; doors had dangerously sharp (unburred) edges. Doors were operated simultaneously by pushing a knob connected to lever arrangement, with spring return; this required unduly large pressure to operate, and was noisy. Heating element wires, thin, indicating probability of short life. Wattage, 413 (375). Time for 2 pieces of toast, both sides, 2 minutes 5 seconds. Toasting, very uneven, with some portions not toasted at all; some

burning at edges. Not easy to load; not easily cleaned. Workmanship and probable durability judged poor. Warranty stated defective parts replaced free within one year of purchase, and that elements would be replaced any time after one year but not later than five years for \$1 (purchaser to pay transportation charges). 3

Toast Queen (Lexington Machinery & Development Co., Inc., Clifton, N. J.) \$5.88. Equipped with good-quality cord. Body and base, nickel-plated steel; doors had dangerously sharp (unburred) edges. Design was such that there was danger of burning fingers on door when opening to turn or remove toast, and handles were too hot to touch

safely. Wattage, 638 (500 to 650), judged excessive for the type of construction. Time for two pieces of toast, both sides, 30 seconds. Quality of toast, unusually poor. Heated too fast, and hence scorched the bread on the surface, leaving the middle of slice relatively unaffected. Difficult to load and clean. Toaster slid along table top when user attempted to close door with one hand. Handles reached a temperature of 250°F, which was much too hot, and would burn the fingers. Workmanship, poor. Assembled by bending of tabs (unsatisfactory). Rubber grommet at point of entrance of line cord into base would have a very short life because of intense heat generated. 3

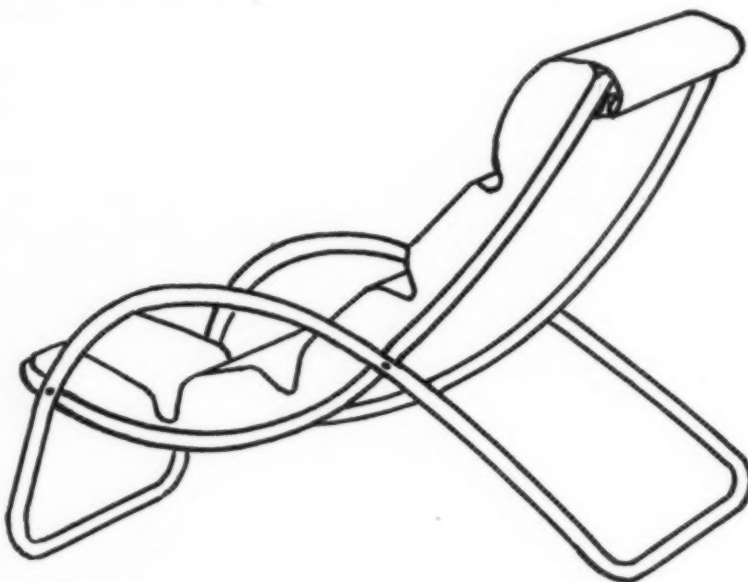
★★★

Lawn Chair

★★★

WITH lumber unprecedentedly scarce, and supplies getting worse rather than better with the lapse of time since V-J Day, much metal lawn furniture (all high-priced) is being offered to department-store customers.

One type of modern metal chair now widely sold by department stores is the *Sleepy Hollow No. HF1* made by Haliburton Aluminum Furniture, 4724 S. Boyle Ave., Los Angeles 11. This chair, priced at \$15, has an aluminum tubular frame in two sections—one of which forms the legs and arms and the other the support for the cushion or seat. The seat assumes a shape similar to the canvas of an ordinary deck chair when the latter is adjusted in a medium position. A single long cushion, divided by transverse rows of stitching into 5 heavily padded sections approximately 4 inches thick with spaces between varying from approximately 1 inch at the seat to 4 inches at the back, formed the back and seat. The interrupted character of the cushion surface



makes the chair considerably less comfortable than a deck chair would be. Another disadvantage of the chair is its non-adjustability, which limits its use to the semi-reclining position, and makes it unsuitable for reading. (Sitting up for any length of time proved to be quite fatiguing.) Still a third disadvantage was the smallness of the arms, which are made of 1-inch tubing, and, being cylindrical, do not furnish a comfortable rest for the

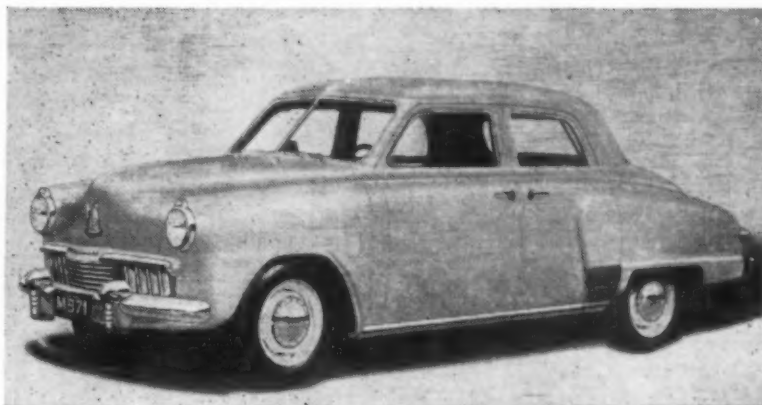
arms of the occupant. The chief advantage of the chair is an important one; namely, its lightness, which permits its easy removal from one part of the lawn to another. In fact, a man of moderate strength can handle it easily with one hand (weight about 16 lb.). The chair, however, is by no means as comfortable as the ordinary "Adirondack" chair which had wide arms and often provided for a degree of adjustability in the inclination of the back.

Studebaker Cars for 1947

RECENTLY announcing its cars for 1947, Studebaker is the first automobile producer to offer a new car with completely redesigned body embodying radical changes in styling. The appearance of the '47 *Studebaker* is entirely different not only from Studebaker's own previous models, but from any car now being marketed. Apparently the company aims toward setting the style pace for other automobile producers—several of whom have stated that their 1947 models would not be offered until production on 1946 cars had attained normal figures, or additional time had elapsed to permit developing and tooling their newest designs.

In general the styling is the nearest approach in a production car (i.e., a car made by an established company which has made automobiles in quantities in the past), to some of the "car of the future" designs that have been shown only in the drafting-room stage up to this time. Nevertheless there seems to be nothing in the design which would not be acceptable to the buyer, once he realized that many of the new features were of very definite value to him as driver and user. The body is wider than the usual car body, permitting about 10 inches greater space for seat width. The front fenders are blended into the body lines, with no sharp break between fenders and doors. Overall height is less (by about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches) than on previous models.

In the two-door 5-passenger coupe, the rear window, which



1947 Studebaker Champion, 4-door Sedan

is curved, has almost as much glass area as the windshield. In the *Champion* sedan, the windshield area has been increased by a square foot, and the rear window (curved) by over $1\frac{1}{2}$ square feet. Recognizing that certain technical difficulties exist in producing safety-glass (sandwich type) of curved form, the question arises as to whether true safety-glass or the so-called "tempered glass" common before the war in cars having rear windows of curved glass, has been used. (Information is not yet available on this point.) In the 5-passenger coupe the window extends around the side of the body, leaving a narrow panel of metal to support the top at this point. The windows have been termed "contour fit" type in *Studebaker* advertising, a name which seems to express the new design.

Since it is understood at this time that the restyled bodies will be used on both *Champion* and *Commander* lines of cars,

the *Champion* may be said to have lost its "small car" appearance. Incidentally the *Champion* is about 200 pounds heavier than formerly, which is considered not too much of a penalty to pay for a car possessing the advantages offered.

To provide additional length for passenger space within the body, the engine has been moved forward 5 inches, which with other changes moves the passenger space 10 inches forward. Illumination of the instrument panel is by so-called "black light"—invisible ultraviolet light which illuminates fluorescent-painted dials. The "tunnel" in the rear compartment floor has been eliminated by the use of a two-section propeller shaft with intermediate bearing mounted on a cross-member under the floor.

Other mechanical changes include floating front spring mountings, self-adjusting brakes, interchangeable type connecting-rod bearings, and frame side rails and cross-members flanged at bottom. While

further details will be provided later concerning the advantages of these and other changes, it may be noted that the flanging of the frame members provides additional stiffness without adding much weight. The use of the interchangeable type connecting rod

bearings makes servicing easier and less expensive, following as it does the practice applied by makers of several other low-priced cars, including *Ford* and *Plymouth*.

While original production schedules had anticipated a production of 25,000 cars per

month by June, delays in obtaining frames and steering gears (frames from Midland Steel, gears from Ross) as well as other parts, due to strikes, and the occurrence of the general strike on the railroads, places satisfactory production some weeks or months away.

Gasoline

CONSUMERS' RESEARCH has long been opposed, for reasons clearly set forth in CR Bulletins, February 1940, January 1932, and January 1934 General Bulletin, to the wide sale of leaded gasoline, and has in the past urged subscribers to avoid contributing to the increase of the already serious public hazard due to use of gasoline containing a very poisonous lead compound. Whenever practicable it is best to purchase the relatively lower-priced "third structure" gasolines or regular gasolines, that contain the smallest amounts of the very poisonous tetraethyl lead. During the war period, consumers had little choice—indeed were glad to obtain any kind of gasoline as long as it would make their car go. The wartime gasoline while of low octane value was quite satisfactory in the majority of cars provided the distributor was correctly adjusted for the kind purchased. Since the war, the trend has been to increase the amount of lead, and high-lead premium gasolines have again appeared on the market. However, continuing shortages

of lead resulting from the action of governmental price controls has resulted in the Civilian Production Administration's reducing lead allocations for use in manufacture of tetraethyl lead. Consequently there is likely to be again a reduction in the octane numbers of leaded fuels. So-called third structure (lowest or sub-regular grade) gasolines are practically nonexistent in some regions, and non-leaded regular gasolines, with very few exceptions—e.g., *Sunoco Dynafuel*, are almost as scarce.

Many consumers (misled by advertising men's fanciful claims for high-priced motor fuels) believe that an advantage in power, even in actual economy of operation, is achieved by the use of the higher-priced fuels that are high in tetraethyl lead. *This is simply not true*, though millions of consumers have been persuaded that it is—against their own best interests. CR's BULLETINS in the past have presented the basic facts regarding leaded gasoline and quality ratings that help the careful consumer to reach his

own conclusions, and to save many dollars yearly, if his driving mileage is considerable.

The following ratings are based on careful, detailed tests made by an independent commercial laboratory; the rating of the gasolines is by CR. The samples in this particular test were all purchased in the state of California. (Tests of gasolines from other sections of the country are now being planned.) In this connection CR would be interested in hearing from subscribers in various sections of the country willing to cooperate in the buying of samples for test (purchase and shipping charges to be paid by CR).

We do not recommend the general use of premium gasolines with their high lead content (2.23 to 2.95 cc. per gal.) compared to "regular" leaded gasolines, whose lead content in the samples tested averaged 1.21 cc. per gallon (minimum 0.54, maximum, in one case only [*Union Regular*], 2.29 cc.). For this reason, no premium gasoline has received a rating higher than *B. Intermediate*. One of the brands tested con-

tained lubricating oil. The practice of adding oil is not only unnecessary but may be a definite disadvantage, through its tendency to increase carbon formation and possibly to cause sticking of valves.

For those who find it impracticable to purchase one of the recommended brands, the best procedure is to purchase a well-known brand of gasoline, preferably regular or standard grade, which has sufficient anti-knock value for most cars. If the engine does not ping on regular grade fuel, have the spark advance checked, and changed if necessary. If the pinging is too pronounced, some premium fuel can be added; the amount should be just sufficient to stop the pinging, and no more. This can be done accurately enough when buying at pumps by buying, for example, one-third premium grade and the rest standard grade. The actual proportions are of course determined by trial and experiment, and may change somewhat with season, altitude, and other fac-

tors. When an engine is knocking or pinging slightly, actually the maximum horsepower is being produced for a given amount of fuel. This knock is most noticeable when the motor is slowed down on a hard pull, with the throttle almost fully open. (Only when such knocking is considerable, and under severe and exceptional circumstances, will there be any danger of harm to the engine.)

Regular Grade

A. Recommended

Associated.
General. Rated as a well-balanced fuel.
Mohawk.
Norwalk.
Shell.
Signal.
Standard.
Sunland Non Leaded.
Sunland.
Texaco.

B. Intermediate

Union. Lead content unusually high.

C. Not Recommended

Beacon. Sulphur content high. Tendency to gum.

Five C. Sulphur content high.
Golden Eagle. Sulphur content high. Gum very high.
Hancock. Sulphur and gum content high.
Krieger. Gum content high.
Richfield. Sulphur content high. Tendency to gum.
Seaside. Contained lubricating oil. (see text).
Wilshire. Gum content high.

Premium Grade

B. Intermediate

Associated.
General.
Mohawk Ethyl.
Norwalk.
Richfield.
Shell.
Signal.
Standard.
Texaco.
Wilshire.

C. Not Recommended

Beacon. Octane rating below average. Tendency to gum.
Five C. Octane rating below average.
Golden Eagle. Gum content high.
Hancock. Tendency to gum. Octane rating below average.
Krieger. Gum content high.
Seaside. Contained lubricating oil (see text).
Sunland. Gum content a little high.
Union. Sulphur content too high.

★ ★ Corrections and Emendations to Consumers' Research Bulletins ★ ★

Water Softeners
Col. 362
ACB '45-'46
The price of *Calgon* should have been given as 43c for 19 oz. (36c per lb.). This makes *Calgon* cost nearly three times as much as tetrasodium pyrophosphate (tspp.) which is also a very good water softener and low in alkalinity (alkalinity is no higher than that of soap in solution). Tspp. when available can be purchased for something around 13c per lb. in 10-lb. lots (see listing, col. 362, *ABC* '45-'46). At the present time tspp., being scarce, may be hard to obtain.

Bottle Closure
Page 22
January '46
Change address of *Meco, Inc.*, from 2048 N. 41st St., Milwaukee, to Napoleon, Ohio.

Cocoa
Page 23, Col. 2
2nd Paragraph
February '46
In mentioning brands of cocoa considered as approaching coffee in stimulant properties, two names were included in error. Delete

Baker's Breakfast and *Our Mother's Pure All Occasion* cocoas and substitute *Baker's DeLuxe Dutch Process* and *Rockwood's Breakfast* cocoas.

1946 Cars
Jeep
Page 10, Col. 2
March '46

In the discussion of the 1946 *Crosley* car, the *Jeep* was referred to as having the standard 56-inch tread. The *Jeep's* tread is 48¼ inches, or about 8 inches less than standard.

Lotions for the Hands
Page 5, Col. 1
5 lines from bottom
April '46

Change spelling of *cholesterin* to *cholesterin*. Other correct spellings of the name for this substance related to lanolin are *cholestrin* and *cholesterol*.

HEARING AID PRICES ARE INCREASING

FROM BULLETIN OF NEW YORK LEAGUE FOR HARD OF HEARING

Repairs Also Cost More; Price Controls Are Off

DURING the early years of the war, concerted effort on the part of the American Society for the Hard of Hearing and its chapters resulted in standardization of battery terminals. Another development was a downward trend in prices of hearing aids—a trend hailed with joy by the hard of hearing. But it looks as though that downward trend has come to a halt; in fact, the trend seems to be in the opposite direction.

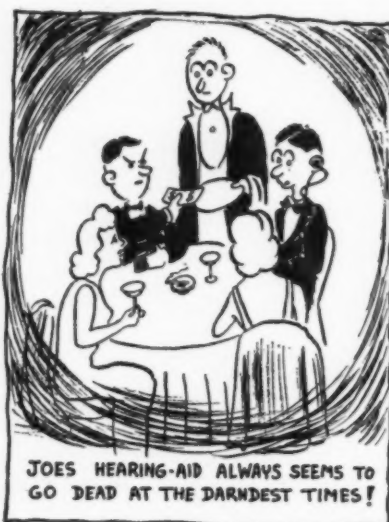
Every day complaints are made of high prices charged for repairs. One client received an estimate of \$12.50 for a repair on an out-moded carbon aid. As she was unable to meet this expense, she appealed to the League. Through the cooperation of a general servicing office, the required work was done at a cost of \$4.50.

Another case is that of a woman who asked to have her aid repaired and was told that repairs are no longer made; she would have to take a "replacement" costing approximately \$20. When she remonstrated she was told: "Other companies are getting away with it; why shouldn't we?"

Constant complaints are received about new aids not standing up. Cords wear out in a few weeks; aids go completely dead and have to be returned. One man we know of

has had three new aids in six months. Clients complain of the attitude of salesmen when new aids are returned.

A woman tells us it costs her \$50 a year for repairs on her



JOES HEARING-AID ALWAYS SEEMS TO GO DEAD AT THE DARDEST TIMES!

aid; that it takes two weeks to repair the aid and that the service is poor. She stated frankly that she wanted to get another hearing aid of a different make.

At a time when we had earnestly hoped that costs would come down, several of the hearing aid companies, with ceiling prices abolished, have told us that they have found it necessary to increase prices. Many of the clients who come to our Hearing Aid Consultation Service are dismayed when they select a certain hearing aid and are told that its cost is \$200. The average man cannot afford this high price. Even if he is eligible for Stein Fund help,

the cost is too much. And if by some means the aid can be purchased, and he finds it necessary to have the aid repaired after the year's guarantee has expired, he is charged \$50 for a "replacement." What often happens in a case like this is that the individual decides against the high priced aid, which he has selected as best suited to his hearing, and compromises on an aid at a price within his means, even though he finds the latter less pleasing.

There is unquestionably greater interest in hearing aids today than ever before. A large majority of those willing and anxious to wear aids now are those persons who, for economic reasons or because of vanity, have previously held back. Now that hearing aids are becoming a matter of course and are so inconspicuous, much prejudice has been broken down and persons who need an aid attempt to get a suitable one.

The Zenith Radio Corporation deserves a great deal of the credit for this attitude by offering to the public a hearing aid at a price most persons can afford. But every hard of hearing person does not hear well with the Zenith. Persons often try other makes of hearing aids and frequently find that what suits them does not suit their pocketbooks. Thus they are forced to purchase a hearing aid on a basis of price instead of suitability, and find they

have an aid inadequate for their needs.

From our experience we believe that eight out of ten hard of hearing persons can use hearing aids with some degree of efficiency and satisfaction. The interest manifested by the hard of hearing public should be met more than half way, not only by those interested in their problem, but by the hearing aid companies who are in a position to make a great contribution toward helping the hard of hearing. But this cannot be done if the average man

THE accompanying article on the present hearing aid situation is reprinted by the kind permission of the New York League for the Hard of Hearing, with slight omissions. The report is from "The Bulletin" of the League, which is published by the organization at 480 Lexington Ave., New York 17.

is to be made a victim of high prices.

Price increases of which we have been notified to date include:

SONOTONE—Model 600, from \$185 to \$195 (plus \$5 for an eartip).

OTARION—from \$147.50 to \$175.

TELEX—from \$175 to \$195.

Any League members—or any hard of hearing persons—who have complaints to make about hearing aid sales or service, should send them in to the League office.

Full-Size Washers

As indicated by the articles on *Bendix* and *Maytag* washers in the February and May BULLETINS, tests of washing machines are proceeding, and reports of CR's findings will be published as rapidly as samples become available and work is finished.

Results of preliminary tests on the three washers are reported here, but it should be noted that these give information that applies only to effectiveness in washing and in removal of water from the washed clothes. (Remaining data on constructional qualities, electrical shock hazard, safety of wringer release, etc., will be reported in a future BULLETIN.) In addition to these preliminary reports, a digest of the complete report on the Automatic Washer Company's *Automatic Duo Disc*, is given. A personal or portable washer is also being tested and will be reported in an early issue.

The preliminary information on washing and drying performance is being presented in this BULLETIN in order to make a part of the necessary information available to subscrib-



Automatic Duo Disc Washer

ers as quickly as possible; this practice will in general be carried out on all the new appliances so far as practicable, in order that persons who are unable to postpone a purchase until full information is in hand will have the benefit, in their shopping, of as much information as can be supplied pending completion of the more comprehensive tests.

B. Intermediate

Automatic Duo Disc, Model No. 453 P, with wringer and pump (Automatic Washer Co., Newton, Iowa) \$89.95, Zone 2. (Not actually an automatic washer like *Bendix* or *Laundromat*.) Performance on washing test about the same as *Bendix*, decidedly less good than *Maytag*. Uniformity of cleansing much better than *Bendix*, considerably below *Maytag*. Efficiency of wringer, satisfactory, somewhat less than *Maytag*. The water left in the clothes was about 107% of the weight of the dry clothes (*Maytag*, 97%). Motor and gear case lubricated for life of machine. Wringer requires two drops of oil in oil holes provided, every second washing. Action of casters

found not satisfactory (difficult to steer machine about). To avoid clashing, and for positive engagement, agitator clutch control must be pulled out quickly and strongly. Tub cover, enameled steel of too light gauge. Performance on endurance run satisfactory, with only slight increase of noise. Some details of design and workmanship poorly executed. Electrical safety, good (no leakage current and no failure on electrical breakdown test at 900 volts). Minimum fuse 15 amperes (making no allowance for other loads on branch circuit). Wringer found to meet Underwriters' Laboratories requirements as to force required to operate emergency release, and also as to the two-inch clearance with rolls in released position, but as CR has pointed out

previously, meeting such a requirement does not guarantee the user's safety with any wringer-type machine (see CR's May 1946 BULLETIN, page 9).

The following listings of three machines are based on washing effectiveness and drying ability only.

B. Intermediate

Montgomery Ward's No. 846. \$62.95, plus freight. Performance on washing test a little better than *Bendix*, decidedly less good than *Maytag*. Efficiency of wringing action good. The water left in the clothes was about 95% of the weight of the dry clothes.

Whirlpool, Model No. 51230 (Nineteen Hundred Corp., St. Joseph, Mich.) \$85.75, Zone 2. Performance on washing test better than *Bendix*, but not as good as *Maytag*. Efficiency of wringing action very good. The water left in the clothes was about 90% of the weight of the dry clothes.

C. Not Recommended

Sears Kenmore, Model No. 53230 (Sears, Roebuck & Co.; manufactured by Ninteen Hundred Corp.) \$67.75, plus freight. Performance on washing test poor, about on a par with a small or "personal" washer recently tested. Efficiency of wringing action good. The water left in the clothes was 100% of the weight of the dry clothes.

★ ★ ★

Consumers' Test Manual

★ ★ ★

TEACHERS and students of consumers' problems will be interested in the CONSUMERS' TEST MANUAL (35 pages, 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 10 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches, plus index, illustrated). This is available from Consumers' Research at 50c. The Test Manual also provides material that would be of much interest to many science- or engineering-minded consumers not engaged in teaching or study of consumer problems. It provides directions for conducting some 75 tests of consumers' goods; the tests have been selected so as to require little apparatus, and they involve relatively simple procedures. The instructions given include such items as a test for sulphites in fruits, fruit juices, etc.; test for starch in face powder or other substances; tests of baking powder (for gas-producing

efficiency and nature of constituents); comparison of vinegars and household ammonias; tests for lead and zinc in drinking water; partial analysis of soap; tests for quality of eggs; tests to identify fibers in fabrics; and many others.

This Test Manual is not new (it was originally issued in April 1937) but the information it contains is still valid and correct; the material was carefully prepared, and there has been no occasion for revision subsequently.



The Post-War Appliances—

Why They Are Delayed in Production and Hard to Find

CONTINUING the discussion of important points brought out in our article "Appliances Are Not *Really* Available" in the May 1946 BULLETIN, subscriber correspondence shows that consumers have a marked tendency to assume that post-war electrical appliances will be different from those produced just before the war. However, persons who make this assumption do not recall, perhaps, that in most cases the manufacturer is having the utmost difficulty nowadays in getting any output at all, because of strikes in the plants of one or more suppliers, the very drastic effects of steel, coal, and railway strikes on production of essential materials, strikes that may even be occurring in his own plant. An important additional difficulty is the scarcity of competent technical help at this time.

All these factors have combined to make it very difficult for any of the larger pre-war manufacturers to produce strictly new items. Indeed, many of the largest producers would be very glad if they were able to get into smooth, large-scale production on the self-same items that they manufactured and marketed before the war. A case in point is electric refrigerators and food freezers, regarding which there have been many announcements of products, and a number of attractive items catalogued—but almost none ready for actual delivery to consumers.

When this was written in

June, Sears-Roebuck's food freezer shown in the catalog received some months ago (late January, 1946) was not yet available for shipment to consumers; likewise, Sears *Cold-spot* refrigerator is not available to consumers. Montgomery Ward advise, in regard to an order placed with them the third week in May, that an electric hedge shears (which they showed in a summer sale catalog mailed in May) "is permanently out of stock." This extreme and unprecedented situation as to shortage of essential goods is fully understandable when it is realized that the impact of strikes on production has been "little short of disastrous," with the steel production loss alone equivalent to 10 percent of the industry's annual output.

The lost steel production due to strikes has been estimated at an amount sufficient to produce nearly 4 million automobiles and trucks; the importance of this to consumers may be judged from the fact that according to one study it was concluded that the maximum number of cars and trucks to be produced in 1947 will be somewhat under 5 million (perhaps even as few as 3 million), with an outside limit for 1948 of something less than 5½ million. These limits are due to the reduction in the nation's capacity to produce flat-rolled steel, a reduction brought about by extensive change-over of the mills during the war period to high-speed automatic rolling equipment.

Consumers who have or-

dered appliances have often been greatly annoyed by the fact that items that were catalogued or advertised were not available. In many cases their indignation at advertising of goods that could not be purchased was justifiable, but the mail-order houses were in no wise to blame for non-delivery of goods which they expected to sell. They, of course, had no reason to suspect that they would be unable to deliver items because production would be interrupted by industry-wide or nation-wide strikes. Mail-order firms do not, naturally, wish to spend valuable catalog space, paper, and printing, on the display of items that they are not reasonably certain to have in stock during the life of a given catalog; neither do they wish to incur the large costs of processing and refunding on orders which they are unable to fill.

The average consumer tends to underestimate greatly the serious effects of stoppages of production due to strikes and similar causes. According to one news report, the coal stoppage had caused a loss of some 90% of the steel required for a year's production of refrigerators, automobiles, electric irons, and washing machines. Loss of production on pig iron used in casting drainage piping for new homes has increased the difficulty already snarling the building industry due to shortages of lumber, millwork, and other essential items. The railway strike added another element which of course

affected the distribution and the production of practically everything. With all factors combined, the restoration of normal production of consumers' goods has been retarded for many months, retarded to a degree, indeed, which must be quite appalling to the "planners" of reconversion in Washington, to whom recent evidence of continuing strikes and

threats of more and more strikes to come have brought these questions home with a great deal of unpleasant emphasis.

Many people also have an exaggerated impression of the improvements made in appliances through work done during the war; actually, there was almost no time to spend

on improving civilian goods, even when wartime production was nearing its end. This is particularly true in the oil-burner field, for example, and applies as well to many sorts of household appliances and equipment, such as food freezers, refrigerators, ranges, toasters, radio receivers of the better grades, and many other items.

Water-Injection for Your Car

WHETHER or not the end of the war also brought an end to a significant development in the automotive field remains to be seen. The so-called "water-injection" principle, so successfully applied in airplane engines (for take-off and all-out operation in combat), has had its counterpart in a device which was suitable for automobiles and which could be attached at low cost. Whether or not this worth-while accessory will now be marketed, since the purpose it served now can be met by higher octane fuel than was available during the war, remains to be seen; however, it seems likely that more than one accessories manufacturer will bring it out, for devices of this type have always been susceptible to being "hopped up" by clever advertising men so that they seem to be able to promise almost magical performance upon the engine to which they were attached.

The use of water-injection to suppress detonation is quite old in automotive history. In fact, this device was used as early as 1914 in connection with work by an engineer of our acquaintance on a carburetion system of an early four-cylinder car intended to operate

on kerosene. Some of the earliest 4-stroke (*Otto*) cycle engines of the stationary type were equipped with water-injectors to prevent knocking, long before the real cause of this phenomenon was known. Numerous devices to supply water or water-vapor to the engine, some effective, some not, were marketed in the period just prior to the introduction of ethyl fluid in the early 1920's. However, increased knowledge of the chemical nature of gasolines gained during the period of World War I had greatly alleviated the tendency of fuels to knock before ethyl fluid became generally available.

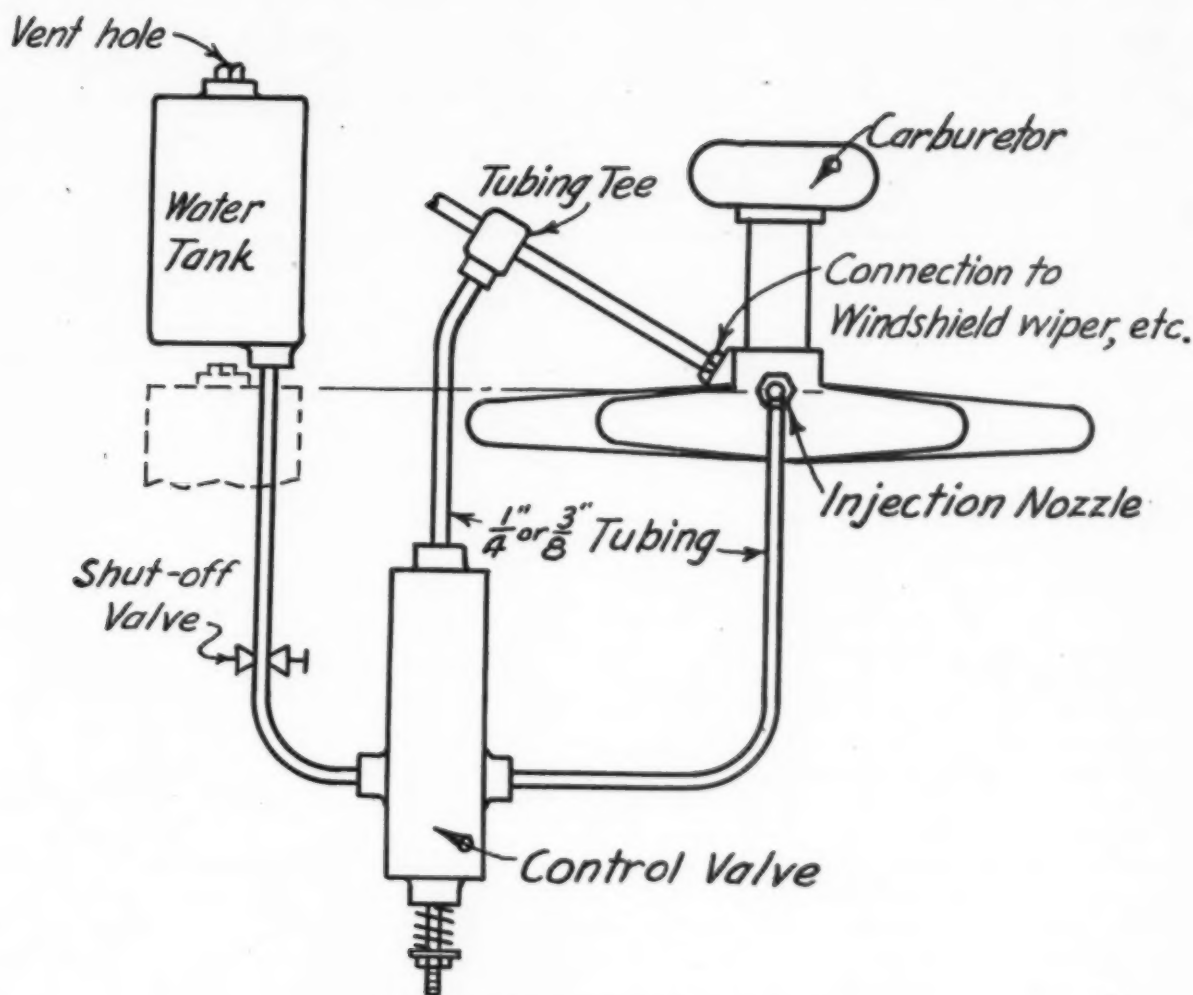
The fact that water-injection does help to suppress detonation is just an engineer's application of the common observation that many have noticed: That an automobile engine runs more smoothly on rainy days, or at night when the moisture content of the air may be higher than in daytime. There can be no question of the fact, but just what is the cause of the phenomenon is not precisely known, at least in so far as effect upon power output and overall fuel economy are concerned.

For automobiles using low-

octane fuels, the new device functions to supply water only during acceleration or full power output. Thus a limited quantity (a few quarts) will last for several days to a week or more of driving. The amount required to prevent detonation is metered to the intake manifold under these driving conditions. Unless the water is supplied only when needed, the amount required is quite large, and that was exactly the difficulty with the old water-injection accessories introduced many years ago, for several gallons a day were needed when the device supplied water continuously (even though the quantity introduced per minute was very small). There was one early type of device which drew water vapor from the space above the liquid in the radiator; such were quite useless (in part because the latent heat of vaporization of the water was not available by this method of introducing the vapor into the engine manifold).

Alcohol Injection

The more recent applications of water-injection have not only used water, but mixtures of various alcohols and water or alcohols only. One advantage of use of alcohol in this way is



Typical Water-Injection Layout

The water or water-alcohol mixture is injected only when the engine throttle is well open (which is when extra anti-knock quality is needed), and vacuum is low. This permits the spring at the bottom of the control valve to force the control valve to move downwards into a lower or "open" position. When the engine is idling or operating with throttle open only a small amount, the high vacuum pulls the valve into the closed position against the spring, blocking off the supply of water or water-alcohol mixture to the carburetor.

to prevent freezing due to water settling from the fuel in the gasoline tank or the carburetor, but the use of pure alcohol for the purpose is not justified. Besides the freezing-prevention characteristic, another factor is involved, namely, the ability of alcohol to suppress detonation (pinging) by its very effective cooling action in the cylinders of the engine due to its high latent heat of vaporization. (While water possesses this quality, too, it is not a fuel, of course, but dilutes the fuel; thus, all things consid-

ered, alcohol is better, since it delivers to the engine some heating or fuel value along with its anti-knock effectiveness.)

Had not the war ended when it did, it seems certain that water and alcohol injection devices would have been offered to facilitate use of the low-octane war-grade fuels. Whether or not this method of preventing detonation will become another "war casualty" probably depends partly upon what the advertising men think up and partly upon the possible demand from those who may pre-

fer to buy fuels of low-octane rating, yet would still like to achieve good non-knocking performance such as would be afforded by a higher-grade motor fuel. Since water or alcohol injection permits compression pressure to be increased without necessitating the use of high-octane fuels, it may provide an alternative method of car operation if offered as an accessory for cars to be marketed in the future and thus give the car maker an added "selling point"—and a worth-while one for some users at least.

A Non-Electric Dry Shaver

DEPARTMENT STORE and other advertising has recently appeared for a new gadget called *Vestpok* Dry Shaver. This is being sold as "what every man has waited for since he came of shaving age," a statement which, after a brief trial of the instrument, seems greatly exaggerated. *Vestpok* consists of a small hollow metal drum about $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch in diameter by 1 inch long, perforated by hundreds of tiny holes, in appearance not unlike the head of the *Sunbeam* electric dry shaver. Inside the drum, there is held loosely in a slot a small T-shaped, double-edged razor blade about $1 \times \frac{1}{8}$ inches in size. Rolling the drum back and forth across the face is supposed to permit the beard hairs to enter the small holes where they are cut off against the stationary blade.

The manufacturer very evidently realizes the severe limitations to the workings of his device, for the instructions say: "Your *Vestpok* shaver is designed to be used *in addition to your straight blade, safety or electric razor*, for you can always have it with you, and it is ideal for use as a *stubble remover or cleaner-upper* although, of course, *if used regularly*, it will give you a most satisfactory shave at your regular shaving time." (The emphasis in the foregoing is CR's.) Unfortunately, so far as CR has noted, the advertising which sells the product makes no mention of the information which one gets upon buying the implement, and in view of the emphasis upon the auxiliary character of the *Vestpok*

Here it is, gentlemen,

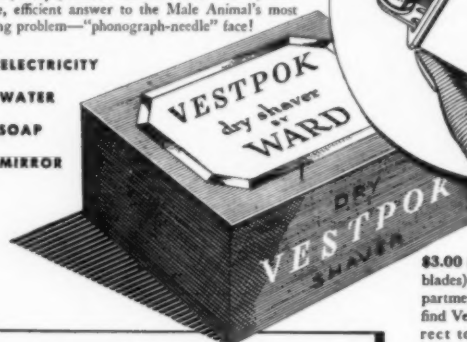
VESTPOK

the greatest invention since the face ...

dry shaver
by
WARD

• VESTPOK is what every man has waited for since he came of shaving age . . . a vest pocket sized dry shaver that can be used any time, any place! As small as a match folder, Vestpok is designed to be the traveler's pal, the office companion, the buddy in the barracks, locker room, airplane or taxicab. Vestpok can't cut, scrape, nick or burn . . . it's the safe, comfortable, efficient answer to the Male Animal's most annoying problem—"phonograph-needle" face!

- NO ELECTRICITY
- NO WATER
- NO SOAP
- NO MIRROR



\$3.00 (with 10 of the finest razor steel blades) at leading men's furnishes, department stores or jewelers. If you can't find Vestpok at your dealer's, write direct to: Vestpok, Ward Machine Company, Inc., Brockton, Mass.

Here's how VESTPOK works . . .



Used like an eraser, Vestpok's cylinder rolls the whiskers away in a hurry!



A twist of a coin in the slot and—presto, the old blade drops out—it's that easy!



Vestpok fits into your smallest vest pocket, with plenty of room to spare!

Leading with your chin?
Be smooth...use VESTPOK

From a magazine advertisement of Vestpok.

functioning in the instructions, that seems a very serious omission—one of the kinds of service, no doubt, which accounts for the prosperity of advertising agencies. We definitely do not like the marketing of products whose promoters follow the practice referred to here (also illustrated by the advertising of *Aquella* [CR's May 1946 BULLETIN], which forgot

to mention that the product could not be used on a basement wall that had been previously calcimined, white-washed, bituminous coated, painted or treated with an organic waterproofing compound "unless such coating has been completely removed").

Tests by CR's staff disclosed that for anyone whose face was not conditioned to the use of

an electric razor, the *Vestpok* device was of little value. For those who used an electric dry shaver regularly, fair results would be obtained, but the time required would be about two or three times as long as normally required for shaving, and the user might find the *Vestpok* shave considerably less satisfactory than he had been accustomed to. The instructions pointed out that the shorter the bristles the better the *Vestpok* works. This should get some sort of prize as an

understatement, for with the type of shaving head employed by *Vestpok*, only a few of the longer beard hairs would find their way into the holes.

CR's opinion is that the shaver would have a very limited application; probably most people would not wish to buy it if they read and carefully considered the content of the instructions which come with the *Vestpok*. The appliance might be satisfactory for anyone having a slow-growing beard of the kind that is

easy to cut with any type of razor, or for a user with plenty of time available. Another possible application might be emergency use by a person regularly using an electric dry shaver, when electric power was not available. In other circumstances, its value would seem to be doubtful.

C. Not Recommended

Vestpok Dry Shaver (Wards Machine Co., Inc., 966 Main St., Brockton 64, Mass.) \$3, with 10 blades. Might warrant a *B* rating for some few shavers (see discussion in text).

Commercial Mail-Order Photographic Developing and Printing

A LARGE proportion of those taking snapshots this summer will have their films developed and prints made by some commercial film service. To help those who may not be satisfied with the work done by nearby finishers, CR exposed a number of rolls of No. 120 *Eastman Plus X* and *Ansco Supreme* film (2¼ in. x 3¼ in., 8 exposures) in a *Voigtlander Bessa* camera with a high grade *Skopar* lens. The films were sent to 12 different photofinishers for processing, and the resulting films and prints were carefully examined and rated by a qualified photographic expert.

It was found that no finisher did work (developing and printing) comparable with that which would be done by a careful amateur in his own darkroom. A fault which is almost universal with commercial finishers is the practice of overdeveloping, with the resulting

excessive contrast, and in the case of a properly exposed negative, excessive density as well. There is perhaps some justification for this practice, in that no doubt many or most of the rolls of film received by finishers from amateurs are underexposed, and by carrying development to this extreme customary with commercial finishers, printable negatives are more likely to result. Except in a few cases there was apparently no attempt made to get the best possible print from each negative by intelligent choice of the contrast grade of paper to be used.

Other even more serious faults, for which there is no reasonable excuse, were:

Rolls carelessly cut up; instead of cutting in the centers of the spaces between exposures, several of the finishers chopped pieces off some of the negatives, leaving the entire blank space plus a part of one

negative on the end of the next.

Films dirty or scratched or both. Dirty films can be the result of aged developer or fixer, improper washing, or just careless handling. Scratches (except full length scratches parallel to the film edge, caused by some defect in the camera) can be caused by gross carelessness or accident.

Negatives buckled from overheating on the printer. When a negative has once been buckled, it is seldom of use for making an enlargement, although satisfactory contact prints can often be made. Unless fluorescent or other cool light is used, a printer which is in constant use should have heat-absorbing glass and should be properly ventilated; there is no necessity for ruining negatives by overheating. A negative which has been properly developed, fixed, washed, and dried, and which has not

been overheated, will have no irregular bulges, but will be smooth, with only a slight curl. A bulged negative may at times result from uneven wetting, perhaps as a result of water having been splashed on it at some point in its travels throughout the printing room. The effect is similar to that caused by overheating.

Prints dirty or with specks in the gloss, caused by using dirty ferrotype tins.

Unfortunately, if the work is sent to one of the larger finishing plants, the photographer can do little to reduce his risk of receiving unsatisfactory work. If there is an option of regular or fine-grain developing, choice of the latter will usually result in less contrasty and sometimes cleaner negatives. If semi-matte prints are ordered in place of the almost universal glossy prints, the troubles caused by poor ferrotyping will be avoided—and unless the finisher takes a notion to use an even more contrasty grade of paper in semi-matte than he does in glossy, the semi-matte prints will appear less unpleasantly contrasty.

On the whole, the best risk for the amateur who sends his developing and printing work out is likely to be a small local shop, if the proprietor is fairly intelligent and conscientious. Because his operations are not on a mass-production basis, he can give some attention to the likes and dislikes of his customers, and is therefore more likely to be amenable to requests and suggestions. This does *not* mean the usual corner drugstore, which does not do its own finishing, but acts only as a collecting agent and passes the work over to a collector

covering a route for a mass-production photofinisher.

The following ratings are in descending order of merit as judged by CR's photographic expert. Unless otherwise stated, the prices given are for developing one No. 120 roll and making eight prints.

B. Intermediate

Edwards Fine Grain Laboratory, 30 E. Adams St., Chicago 3.

90c. The developing work was superior to that done by any of the other firms listed. Films were clean, and showed no evidence of having been overheated. Unfixed spots on the edges of some negatives check the Edwards' statement that films are individually developed in small tanks of the amateur type. Development had not been carried too far, as in the case of the other rolls sent to commercial finishers; Edwards' negatives had a better tonal range, but considerably lower density. Films which are to be sent to this firm for developing should have approximately double the exposure of those sent to firms which habitually overdevelop. The test roll, for example, was underexposed for Edwards' development, but would have been overexposed for development by most photofinishers. The amateur who habitually underexposes will *not* like the Edwards' service. ¶ Prints were not the best which could have been made from the negatives, but were slightly above the average in quality. (On developing negatives only, this firm would rate A.) 3

George Murphy, Inc., 57 E. Ninth St., New York 3.

55c. Cutting of roll, satisfactory. Films showed some overheating, but were clean. Negatives overdeveloped, but printing paper well chosen. Prints, best of any received. 2

Eastman Kodak Store, 356 Madison Ave., New York 17.

50c. Cutting of roll, satisfactory. Films showed slight overheating. Prints, clean, and better than average. 2

Slade's Photo Service, 396 Broadway, Chelsea, Mass.

51c. Cutting, fair. Negatives not clean. Very little evidence of over-

heating. These negatives, together with those made by Free Developing Co., were least contrasty and hence favorable to pictures that were taken with the proper exposure. Prints, better than average, but some cracks in the gloss. 2

Pavelle Laboratories, Inc., 16 E. 42 St., New York 17.

75c. Cutting, satisfactory. Overheating slight. Prints, clean, but too contrasty. Ferrotyping of prints, good, except at edges. Quality of work not such as to justify high price charged. 3

Free Developing Co., P.O. Box 388, Kansas City, Mo.

25c. Cutting, satisfactory. Overheating not too bad. Prints, too contrasty—not best possible from the negatives; the latter, with Slade's, were least contrasty of any in the group studied. Specks in the gloss, caused by ferrotype tins that were not clean. 1

Bass Camera Co., 179 W. Madison St., Chicago 2.

55c. Cutting, fair. Some overheating noticeable. Prints, fair for contrast, but scratched. 2

C. Not Recommended

Willoughby's, 110 W. 32 St., New York 1.

55c. Cutting, poorest of any. Negatives not clean. No overheating. Prints, above average. Would have been rated B except for the bad cutting. 2

Century Photo Service, Lacrosse, Wis.

25c for developing No. 120 roll, 8 prints, and 2 enlargements (4 in. x 6 in.). Cutting, poor. Films, scratched and overheated. Prints and enlargements, mediocre, and poorly ferrotyped. 1

E. W. Newman Co., 311 Enlow Ave., Evansville 11, Ind.

40c. Cutting, poor. Bad overheating. Prints, much too contrasty; ferrotyping poor. 1

Snap-Shot Store, 75 Exchange Place, New York 5.

50c. Cutting, poor. Some overheating. Negatives dirty and scratched. Poor prints. 2

Elko Photo Finishing Co., Dept. 908, Kansas City 10, Mo.

30c. Cutting, poor; overheating. Negatives not clean—unsatisfactory handling. Prints, too contrasty, and ferrotyped on ferrotype tins that were not clean. 1

Household Cleaners and Detergents

Lan-o-Sheen (The Lan-o-Sheen Co., St. Paul 1), priced at 50c for a 10-oz. package of cream-colored powder having a faint odor of naphthalene, was found upon analysis to consist essentially of soap (about 51½% with something less than 2% of free soap fat); sodium pyrophosphate, about 32%; borax, about 8%; and the rest, moisture.

In order to give the product the appearance of uniqueness and special character and to support his claim that the product is "a new discovery of modern science," the manufacturer sends out on request a 48-page pamphlet which includes a wide range of special directions purporting to apply to the use of *Lan-o-Sheen*. Testimonials by radio personalities are included which are hardly in conformity with the claims of scientific character in the product, or the likewise astonishing claim that the product "removes dirt, dust, soot and grease from fabrics and surfaces by 'Spontaneous Evaporation'." (One of the endorsements refers to the product as "literally replaces a maid," and another one calls it "positively fabulous.")

From *Lan-o-Sheen's* simple composition, as reported in the first paragraph, it is apparent that *Lan-o-Sheen* does not have any special or important properties in the cleansing of linoleum, enameled surfaces, windows, window shades, gloves, hosiery, etc. Although the manufacturers claim "Its lanolin base gives renewed

life," the lanolin content, in *Lan-o-Sheen*, if lanolin is present, is very small. (It is common practice among manufacturers to overadvertise any slight amount of lanolin they may have in their soap and similar products because of the wide acceptance by consumers in the past year or two of the idea that lanolin is a material of almost magical properties, particularly for use in soaps, cosmetics, etc.)

White House Cleaner (White House Chemical Products, Inc., Chicago). 8 oz., 35c. This product, according to its directions, is intended to be used as a cleaner for painted walls and woodwork, fabric upholstery, rugs, linoleum, hardwood and tile floors. Directions call for use of 1 tablespoonful in 1 qt. of hot water for rugs, 1 tablespoonful in 4 qt. of hot water for silks and woollens (for which such a product is not suited at all), and 1 tablespoonful in 2 qt. of hot water for use on walls and floors. This product on analysis was found to consist principally of trisodium phosphate (about 70%) and tallow soap (about 27%) with small amounts of sodium carbonate (washing soda), and about 1% of sodium metasilicate, with a little blue dye. If used as directed, the resultant solution of tsp. would be too strong for the recommended uses. CR has pointed out in several previous Bulletin articles that

the use of strong tsp. solutions is undesirable. The solution of tsp. made according to directions for use on paint, would be a 0.5% solution, which is about 4 times as strong as is considered safe for use on painted surfaces. (Manufacturers of many household cleaning products tend to call for their use in much stronger solution than is safe practice, presumably because they wish the housewives to be convinced of the effectiveness of their product by the speed or energy with which it removes soil from painted and other surfaces.)

Dic-A-Doo (The Patent Cereals Co., Geneva, N.Y.; 34c for 2-lb. jar) is a detergent preparation recommended by its makers for use on sinks, refrigerators, bathtubs, woodwork, and stoves. Analysis showed this old and widely sold product to be a mixture of starch, some trisodium phosphate and sodium carbonate, a small amount of soap, and water (over 50% water). Some years ago, a test of this same product (which was then in a powdered rather than a paste form) showed a much higher content of starch (71%) with about 14% trisodium phosphate, and 7% soda ash.

An actual trial of the present product on white glossy paint showed that although finger marks and dirt were removed from the paint, the glossy character of the paint surface (important for dirt resistance and ease of cleaning) was also lost. The surface of the paint, after application of the *Dic-A-Doo*

according to directions, appeared like a flat or matt-surface paint indicating a deteriorating effect that would, of course, impair the life of any paint, whether originally glossy- or dull-surfaced. Confirming this was the appearance of considerable paint on the rag which was used to clean the painted surface.

Argo-Sheen Cleaner is a product sold for use on various household surfaces—woodwork, tile, linoleum, enameled surfaces (presumably such as those of refrigerators, gas and electric stoves, etc.), Venetian blinds — at \$1 for a 14-fl.-oz. jar. The product proved on analysis to be a mixture of a sodium soap and petroleum naphtha, which forms a semi-gelled mass. It is recommended for use in the cleaning

of white stoves, enamelware, woodwork, floors, rugs, upholstery, luggage, glass, silver, fine fabrics, etc.

Argo-Sheen should be a fairly good mixture for some household uses. The soap jelly used as a vehicle tends to make safer the use of the volatile naphtha material which might otherwise involve a fire hazard. (The kerosene-like ingredient has useful solvent properties on some types of dirt.) The label claim that the product is absolutely harmless to the skin is an incorrect one, for this cannot properly be said of any product containing a significant amount of naphtha or other gasoline-like or kerosene-like solvent.

Solvit All Purpose Cleaner
(Solvit Chemical Co.,

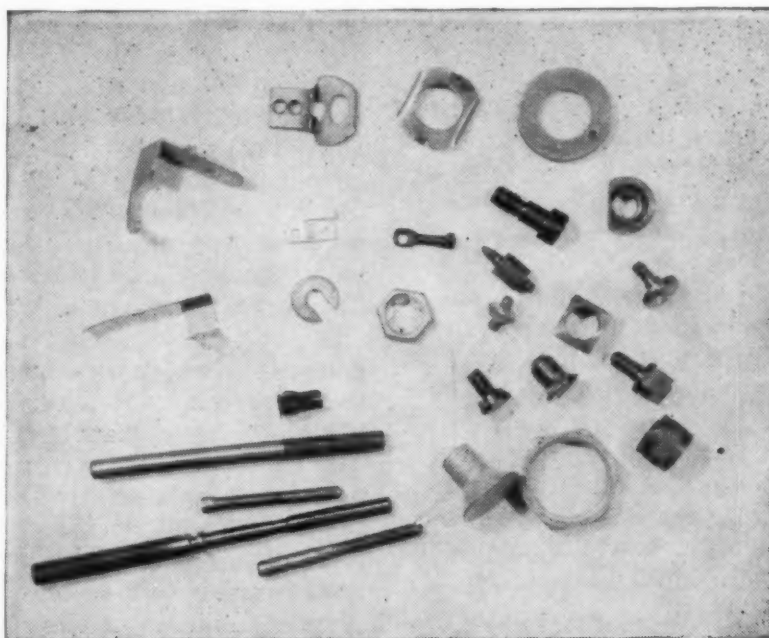
Inc., Madison, Wis.) is another of the large family of household cleaning products which consist chiefly of trisodium phosphate. This material, sold in the form of light green crystals for cleaning "painted surfaces and floors, kitchen utensils, rugs, upholstery, linoleum, glass and silverware" was found on analysis to consist of 95% trisodium phosphate with 2½% each of soda ash (sodium carbonate) and soap, with added pine oil and dye. The directions for use of this product call for a strength of solution which would be undesirable for painted surfaces, as it would give about three times as strong a tsp. solution as CR and other qualified authorities have recommended for use on painted surfaces.

Bolt, Nut, Washer, and Gadget Assortments

THROUGH advertising in popular "experimenter" and radio magazines, handymen and home mechanics will be offered various assortments of small bolts, screws, nuts, washers, small radio parts, etc., as salvage of war goods gets under way. CR's experience with such assortments has not been very favorable, and consumers are advised not to take a chance on buying any of them unless there is an unequivocal guarantee of full refund in case the material is not found to be of a type and variety wanted. One such so-called *Handy Assortment No. 700* was offered by the Hudson Trading Company (1519 N. Wells St., Chicago 10) at 5 lb. for \$1.98. For the majority of mechanics, if the sample purchased by CR was representative, it would

not prove to be very handy, or economical, for it contained many odd-size and unusual-shaped screws, special brack-

ets, and various bolts without nuts to fit. Some of these items are shown in the accompanying picture.



WAXED paper is used for many different things in the home, but its principal use is, of course, in the kitchen. It is used to wrap sandwiches and other lunch foods, and to wrap and cover foods for refrigerator storage.

Fresh meat, for example, should be at once removed from the wrapping paper in which it was delivered, and laid on a doubled sheet of waxed paper or put on a plate or platter, with a piece of waxed paper laid on top to retard evaporation of juices. Ground fresh meat, which spoils more rapidly than unground meat, may be wrapped in waxed paper and, if it is not to be used immediately but within a day or two, stored in the freezing compartment of the refrigerator. Cooked meat should be covered to prevent drying out. Raw fish should be wrapped lightly in waxed paper.

Some vegetables, including lettuce and cabbage, and fruits, too, may be wrapped in waxed paper before being placed in the refrigerator. Berries keep best in a shallow pan, loosely covered with waxed paper, but cantaloupe and other strongly flavored fruits and vegetables should be tightly wrapped to lessen the possibility of transfer of flavors to other foods.

Storing foods in this way not only helps to keep them fresh but also helps your refrigerator to give better service. Uncovered foods in a refrigerator may cause excessive amounts of moisture to collect on the freezing unit or in some cases even to condense in the cabinet and cause the walls or the bottom surface to be damp.

Waxed paper, of course, gives best service if it is resistant to moisture transmis-

sion and if it is strong enough to withstand the pulling, folding, and handling it will receive. To learn which brands were best in these respects, Consumers' Research had nine brands of waxed paper tested for moisture vapor transmission, tensile and bursting strengths, and, for purposes of comparison, also gave a sample of cellophane "freezer wrap" the same tests.

Moisture vapor transmission or "vapor permeability" was determined as grams per 100

When both the waxed paper and the sheet of cellophane were crumpled, as they would be in many uses, the cellophane proved better than the *Hamersley*. The moisture vapor transmission of the *Sylvania* cellulose sheet rose from 1.30 g. to 2.2 g. per 100 sq. in., while that of the *Hamersley* increased from 0.24 g. to an average of 16.9 g. per 100 sq. in. The waxed paper that had the largest vapor transmission was also tested when crinkled, but showed little change. The fact that cellophane has a low vapor transmission, which does not increase appreciably with folding or crumpling, is the reason why sheet cellulose is much used as a wrap for meats and other foods to be stored in a home freezer, for such use calls for the lowest possible loss of moisture from the stored material in the extremely dry atmosphere of a freezer space at the low temperature of about 0°F. (The high tensile and tearing strengths of cellophane are also important factors in wrapping for freezer storage.)

The average tensile strength of the waxed papers was about 10.5 lb. in the machine direction, 4 lb. in the cross direction. Bursting strength averaged about 7 lb., the highest being 11.5 lb., the lowest less than 2.5 lb. The tensile strength of cellophane was somewhat above the average for the waxed papers, but its bursting strength was 33 lb., much greater than that of the waxed papers. Cellophane also has a very high tearing strength, indeed it is often very difficult to start a tear across the sheet.

Unless otherwise stated, all waxed papers tested were in rolls and were 12 inches wide. Price ratings are based on price

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Waxed Papers

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

square inches in 24 hours, this rate being determined by using Thwing Albert Vapometer Cups. Extremely large differences were noted among the papers, the results ranging from the remarkably low figure of 0.24 g. per 100 sq. in. for the *Hamersley* to 102.31 g. for the *Homestead* in 24 hours. The average vapor transmission for all the waxed papers was about 31 g. It is of interest to note that while the cellophane was superior to most of the waxed papers in this respect, with a transmission of only 1.30 g. per 100 sq. in., it did not give so good a performance as the *Hamersley* waxed paper.

of the papers and cellophane per square foot. Figures in parentheses are the cost per square foot.

Ratings are cr46.

Waxed Paper

A. Recommended

Hamersley (The Hamersley Mfg. Co., Garfield, N. J.) 125 ft., 47c (.38c). Extraordinarily low permeability to vapor (little moisture transmission). Tensile strength in both machine and cross direction and bursting strength, above average (one of two best in this respect). 3

Test Mark (Tested Paper of America, Inc., Chicago) 125 ft., 36c (.29c). Little moisture vapor transmission (but 9 times as great as *Hamersley*). Tensile strength in both machine and cross direction and bursting strength, above average (one of two best in this respect). 3

B. Intermediate

Cut-Rite (Automatic Paper Machinery Co., Inc.; distributed by The R. B. Davis Sales Co., Hoboken, N. J.) 125 ft., 15c (.12c). Less than average moisture vapor transmission. Tensile strengths: machine direction, a little below aver-

age; cross direction, about average. Bursting strength, about average. 1
Kitchen Charm (Marcalus Mfg. Co., Inc., Chicago) 125 ft., 14c (.11c). Above average moisture vapor transmission. Tensile strengths: machine direction and cross direction and bursting strength, about average. 1

Waxtex, Heavy (Marathon Corp., Menasha, Wis.) 125 ft., 17c (.14c). About average moisture vapor transmission. Tensile strengths: machine direction, above average; cross direction, about average. Bursting strength, below average. 1

Ben Mont, Extra Heavy (Ben-Mont Papers, Inc., Bennington, Vt.) 125 ft., 21c (.17c). Little moisture vapor transmission. Tensile strengths: machine direction and cross direction and bursting strength, below average. 2

Ben Mont, Refrigerator Paper (Ben-Mont Papers, Inc.) 50 ft., 10c (.2c). Little moisture vapor transmission. Tensile strengths: machine direction, a little above average; cross direction, very much below average. Bursting strength, below average. 2

Thrifty (Marcalus Mfg. Co., Inc.) 36 sheets, 12 in. x 13.3 in. (40 sq. ft.), 8c (.2c). Above average moisture

vapor transmission. Tensile strengths: machine direction, about average; cross direction, above average. Bursting strength, about average. 2

C. Not Recommended

Homestead (Wyoming Valley Paper Mill, Northumberland, N. H.) 125 ft., 25c (.2c). Exceptionally high permeability for moisture vapor. Tensile strengths: machine and cross directions and bursting strength, below average. This paper permitted the largest amount of moisture vapor transmission and was the weakest tested. 2

Cellophane Freezer Wrap

A. Recommended

Sylvania Cellulose Sheet (As sold by Crystal Tube Corporation, Chicago) 100-ft. roll, 20 in. wide, 98c (.59c). Little moisture vapor transmission. Tensile strengths: machine direction, 13.2 lb.; cross direction, 6.2 lb. Bursting strength, 33 lb. (far above [180%] the highest of the waxed papers). 55% more expensive per sq. ft. than the highest-priced waxed paper tested (*Hamersley*); five times as expensive as the B-rated brand *Cut-Rite*. 3

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PHONOGRAPH RECORDS



By Walter F. Grueninger

Please Note: Prices quoted do not include taxes. In the ratings AA indicates highly recommended; A, recommended; B, intermediate; C, not recommended.

THE SALE of phonograph records in 1946, according to *The Wall Street Journal*, will reach 300 million, more than double the previous peak of 130 million sold in 1942. If the industry had the facilities, it is predicted, the sale would probably reach 400 or 500 million discs. Although over 100 record makers contribute to this figure, three companies make about 85% of the total—Victor, Columbia, Decca.

Of the discs likely to be sold this year, 80% will be of the *Shoo-Fly Pie* or popular variety. Most of the remainder—classical music, with some juveniles, fastest growing branch of the business.

Today seven million record players are in the hands of the public against 18 million in the early twenties. When the new players and combination radio sets reach the market, the demand for records is expected to increase.

ORCHESTRA

Addinsell: *Prelude and Waltz*. London Symphony Orchestra under Mathieson. 2 sides, Columbia 7441. \$1.05. Incidental music to the film, "Blithe Spirit."

Interpretation A
Fidelity of Recording C

Addinsell: *Warsaw Concerto*. Andre Kostelanetz and His Orchestra. 2 sides, Columbia 7443. \$1.05. Still another recording of popular, frantic, motion picture music.

Interpretation A
Fidelity of Recording B

Beethoven: *Coriolan Overture*. NBC Symphony Orchestra under Toscanini. 2 sides, Victor 11-9023. \$1. Definitive performance of a highly dramatic overture. Recorded in an acoustically "dead" studio.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording B

Copland: *Appalachian Spring*. Boston Symphony Orchestra under Koussevitzky. 6 sides, Victor Set 1046. \$4. The music was completed two years ago for a dance by Martha Graham. It concerns a pioneer celebration in Spring around a newly built farmhouse in the Pennsylvania hills, during the early part of the last century. The bride and her young farmer-husband are the principal characters. Simple to the point of severity, the music portrays the pioneering spirit. Six pages of illustrations and text on the dance, bound in the album, fall short of their purpose by failing to tie up clearly with record sides. Performance and recording, first rate.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording AA

Dvorak: *Symphony No. 5* ("From the New World"). Philadelphia Orchestra under Ormandy. 10 sides, Columbia Set 570. \$5.85. One of the most popular large scale works, particularly with those who are just beginning to take an interest in symphonic music. Straightforward performance and excellent recording. The beginning of side 3 of my copy swishes. If this defect is not present in other pressings, Columbia Set

570 is likely to please more buyers, considering all factors, than its competitors.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording AA

Gomez: *Il Guarany*—Overture. Boston Pops Orchestra under Fiedler. 2 sides, Victor 11-9112. \$1. Spirited overture reminiscent of Meyerbeer, Verdi, and Offenbach played for all it is worth.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording AA

Handel: *Concerto for Orchestra in D Major* (No. 5). Philadelphia Orchestra under Ormandy. 2 sides, Columbia 12280. \$1.05. Ormandy arrangement of virile music. Full bodied recording.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording AA

Liszt: *Hungarian Rhapsody No. 6*. National Symphony Orchestra under Kindler. 2 sides, Victor 11-9154. \$1. Transcribed by the conductor. The performance lacks fire, the recording is heavily monitored and limited in range.

Interpretation B
Fidelity of Recording B

Offenbach: *La Belle Hélène*—Overture. Boston Pops Orchestra under Fiedler. 2 sides, Victor 11-9026. \$1. Vivacious operetta overture played effectively. The recording, in an empty hall, gets rather muddled in the loudest passages but otherwise is satisfactory.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A

INSTRUMENTAL AND CHAMBER

Achron: *Hebrew Melody & Sibelius: Mazurka*. Mischa Elman (violin). 2 sides, Victor 11-9111. \$1. Encore numbers. The *Melody* is played straight and effectively, the *Mazurka* with annoying mannerisms. The recording emphasizes high frequencies.

Interpretation A
Fidelity of Recording A

Bach: *Come, Sweet Death & Schubert: Lilany*. William Primrose (viola). 2 sides, Victor 11-9117. \$1. Songs transcribed for the viola, played beautifully. Organ-accompanied.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording AA

Beethoven: *Sonata No. 7 in C Minor* (Op. 30 No. 2) (7 sides) & **Handel:** *Sonata in D Major—Allegro* only (1 side). Isaac Stern (violin), Alexander Zakin (piano). Columbia Set 604. \$4.73. A robust work which appeals to the serious student of chamber music. Mr. Stern, one of America's foremost young violinists, possesses an astonishing technique but does not always probe the depths of the music at hand. Since most of this sonata is of the *bravura* type, however, he interprets it quite ably—and his partner, nearly as well. The piano sounds a little wooden, now and then, but the violin is well forward and vibrant. Wide range recording.

Interpretation A
Fidelity of Recording A

Benjamin: *Cookie, From San Domingo, Jamaican Rhumba, Maltzy Rag*. William Primrose (viola). 2 sides, Victor 11-8947. \$1. Four amusing trifles. The *Cookie* side "squeaks" occasionally, due, I judge, to faulty manufacture.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A

Chopin: *Nocturne in F Sharp* (Op. 15 No. 2) & **Rimsky-Korsakoff:** *Flight of the Bumble Bee & Liadoff: The Music Box*. Brailowsky (piano). 2 sides, Victor 11-9009. \$1. Encore pieces that sound unexciting as played here. Excellent recording.

Interpretation B
Fidelity of Recording AA

Debussy: *Clair de Lune & Dinicu: Hore Staccato*. Larry Adler (harmonica). 2 sides, Decca 23467. 75c. Only if you

are "crazy" about the harmonica!

Interpretation B
Fidelity of Recording A

Gigout: *Toccata in B Minor & Campra: Rigaudon*. Virgil Fox (organ). 2 sides, Victor 10-1208. 75c. The wild *Toccata*, played in a reverberant chamber, presented problems which the engineers did not solve. The stately *Rigaudon* comes through with more detail.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording B

Liszt: Piano Music. Gyorgy Sandor (piano). 8 sides, Columbia Set 602. \$4.73. Most of the music calls for a virtuoso performer, which describes Mr. Sandor. The recording engineers must have experienced difficulty with the many loud passages for they were not entirely successful in cutting them into the disk. The relatively quiet "Liebestraum," for example, is much fuller in tone than the turbulent "Rackoczy March." In the main, surface music brilliantly performed and adequately recorded. Included, also, are the "Sonata quasi Fantasia," and "Concert Etude No. 2."

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A

Liszt: Valse Impromptu in A Flat & La Campanella. Brailowsky (piano). 2 sides, Victor 11-9025. \$1. Delightful waltz and a show piece, brilliantly performed and recorded.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A

Liszt: Waldesrauschen & Etude in D Flat. Harold Bauer (piano). 2 sides, Victor 11-9113. \$1. Technically difficult but not particularly rewarding. Tubby recording.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording B

Rachmaninoff: Danse Orientale & Griazoli: Adagio. Edmund Kurtz (cello). 2 sides, Victor 11-9024. \$1. Inconsequential music played with taste, recorded with body.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording AA

Fritz Kreisler Program. (violin). 6 sides, Victor Set 1044. \$3. Solid performance by a master violinist of encore numbers he frequently performs. Included are "The Old Refrain," "Londonderry Air," "Miniature Viennese March," "Rondino on a Theme by Beethoven," etc.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording AA

VOCAL

Beethoven: Fidelio—Abscheulicher, Wo Eilst Du Hin. Rose Bampton (soprano). 2 sides, Victor 11-9110. \$1. Leonore's lengthy show piece is dramatically interpreted and well recorded.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording AA

Borodin: Prince Igor—Galitzky's Aria & Traditional: Kaleenka. General Platoff Don Cassack Chorus under Kostrukoff. 2 sides, Victor 11-9118. \$1. Slepoushkin, the bass-baritone, is featured in these choral numbers of no particular interest.

Interpretation A
Fidelity of Recording A

Dvorak: Songs My Mother Taught Me & Smetana: The Kiss—Cradle Song. Jarmila Novotna (soprano). 2 sides, Victor 11-9153. \$1. The familiar Dvorak item Rose Ponselle recorded with a little more warmth but the unfamiliar *Cradle Song* presents a gem in composition and performance.

Interpretation A
Fidelity of Performance AA

Edwards: Into the Night & Levitzki: Do You Remember? Ezio Pinza (bass). 2 sides, Columbia 17378. 79c. The great basso is just a little out of his element in these sentimental songs.

Interpretation B
Fidelity of Recording A

Friml: L'Amour Toujours L'Amour & Kern: The Jockey on the Carousel. Lily Pons (soprano). 2 sides, Columbia 71698. \$1. Pleasant, light numbers sung here in French-accent English. *L'Amour* has been sung with more emotion by artists of less reputation.

Interpretation B
Fidelity of Recording AA

Haydn: My Mother Bids Me Bind My Hair & She Never Told Her Love. Marian Anderson (contralto). 2 sides, Victor 10-1199. 75c. Songs that have stood the test of time performed better than usual, though not as well as I expected of Miss Anderson.

Interpretation A
Fidelity of Recording AA

Kreisler: The Old Refrain & Traditional: Danny Boy. Nelson Eddy (baritone). 2 sides, Columbia 4335. 75c. One of Mr. Eddy's most enjoyable records.

Interpretation A
Fidelity of Recording AA

Mignone: Cantiga de Ninar & Folksong: I Wonder as I Wander. Gladys Swarthout (mezzo-soprano). 2 sides, Victor 10-1181. 75c. Charming lullaby and an Appalachian folksong performed with more sophistication than I like.

Interpretation A
Fidelity of Recording A

Wagner: Lohengrin—Bridal Chamber Scene. Helen Traubel (soprano), Kurt Baum (tenor). Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra of New York under Rodzinski. 4 sides, Columbia Set X 261. \$2.85. Lohengrin and Elsa are left alone in their bridal chamber, beginning this scene which ends in woe when Elsa seeks the forbidden information. The competitive recording is the Flagstad-Melchior McArthur-conducted Victor Set 897. The direction and the orchestra (fidelity and performance) are better on Columbia. At times, Traubel's and Melchior's singing sounds constricted. Flagstad's limp voice is too lovely for words. Baum, though not as well known as Melchior, does a superb job. Almost a toss-up, with the work of Baum (Columbia), the Philharmonic (Columbia) outstanding—but best of all, and most likely to tip the scale in favor of Victor, is Flagstad.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording AA

POPULAR, LIGHT, AND MISCELLANEOUS

Addinsell: Warsaw Concerto & Young-Washington: A Love Like This. Carmen Cavallaro and His Orchestra. 2 sides, Decca 18742. 50c. It was inevitable Carmen Cavallaro should record with his customary eclat an abbreviated dance version of this popular motion picture music. Overside, a slow, dull Latin number with a vocal.

Interpretation A
Fidelity of Recording AA

Kern: Show Boat Excerpts. Original Cast of the 1946 Broadway Revival. 10 sides, Columbia Set 611. \$5.85. The music needs no introduction. Present day theater goers find the current Broadway production no less fascinating than those who saw the original, nearly two decades ago—including myself. Columbia presents the cast from the revival—a little deficient here and there—performing the principal concerted numbers as well as solos, an ideal arrangement. The orchestra sounds no larger than a theater orchestra, which it is; some of the voices come through with an edge I did not hear in the Ziegfeld Theater; the chorus does not sound as full as I should like. Despite these reservations, a desirable album doubly enjoyable if you have seen the show.

Interpretation A
Fidelity of Recording A

Porter: Night and Day and Other Hits. Allan Jones (tenor). 8 sides, Victor Set 1033. \$4.85. Sophisticated musical comedy hits sung and recorded *fortissimo*. Included are "Night and Day," "Begin the Beguine," "Rosalie," "Easy to Love," etc.

Interpretation A
Fidelity of Recording A

Benny Goodman Sextet Session (instrumentalists). 8 sides, Columbia Set C 113. \$2.63. Principally subdued improvisation by six jam session experts. The numbers include "Rachel's Dream," "Tiger Rag," "Ain't Misbehavin'," "China Boy," "Shine," etc.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A

Gypsy Melodies. Edo Lubich (tenor). 6 sides, International Set 9. \$3.75. Able, authentic performances of fascinating old songs. Included are "Green Eyes," "White Roses," "Wanderer," "Little Gypsy," etc.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A

Ratings of Motion Pictures

THIS section aims to give critical consumers a digest of opinion from a wide range of motion picture reviews, including the motion picture trade press, leading newspapers and magazines—some 19 different periodicals in all. The motion picture ratings which follow thus do not represent the judgment of a single person, but are based on an analysis of critics' reviews.

The sources of the reviews are:

Box Office, Chicago Daily Tribune, The Christian Century, Cue, Daily News (N.Y.), The Exhibitor, Harrison's Reports, Mademoiselle, Motion Picture Herald, National Legion of Decency List, Newsweek, New York Herald Tribune, New York Times, Parents' Magazine, Release of the D.A.R. Preview Committee, Successful Farming, Time, Variety (weekly), and Unbiased Opinions of Current Motion Pictures, which includes reviews by the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the American Legion Auxiliary, National Film Music Council, and others.

The figures preceding the title of the picture indicate the number of critics who have been judged to rate the film A (recommended), B (intermediate), and C (not recommended).

Audience suitability is indicated by "A" for adults, "Y" for young people (14-18), and "C" for children, at the end of each line.

Descriptive abbreviations are as follows:

adv—adventure
bio—biography
c—in color (Technicolor, Cinecolor, or Magnacolor)
car—cartoon
com—comedy
cri—crime and capture of criminals
doc—documentary
dr—drama
fan—fantasy
hist—founded on historical incident
mel—melodrama
mus—musical
mys—mystery
nov—dramatization of a novel
rom—romance
soc—social-problem drama
trav—travelogue
war—dealing with the lives of people in wartime
wes—western

A	B	C		
—	9	2	Abilene Town.....	mus-wes AY
1	9	8	Adventure.....	mel A
—	1	2	Adventure for Two.....	dr AY
1	4	—	Along the Navajo Trail.....	mus-wes AY
—	1	4	Ambush Trail.....	wes AY
—	1	5	Angel Comes to Brooklyn, An.....	mus-com A
2	1	—	Anna and the King of Siam.....	dr A
3	3	1	Appointment in Tokyo.....	war-doc AY
—	3	1	Avalanche.....	cri-mel AY
1	9	2	Bad Bascom.....	mel AY
1	6	2	Badman's Territory.....	wes AY
—	11	4	Bandit of Sherwood Forest.....	hist-dr-c YC
—	7	7	Because of Him.....	mus-dr A
—	4	4	Bedlam.....	dr A
—	4	5	Behind Green Lights.....	cri-mel A
—	3	2	Behind the Mask.....	cri-mel A
—	4	9	Black Market Babies.....	mel A
—	4	6	Blonde Alibi.....	cri-com A
—	1	3	Blondie's Lucky Day.....	com AY
1	11	2	Blue Dahlia, The.....	cri-mel A
—	2	2	Border Bandits.....	wes AY
—	5	2	Boys' Ranch.....	dr AY
—	10	2	Breakfast in Hollywood.....	mus-com A
—	3	5	Bride Wore Boots, The.....	com A
4	2	—	Burma Victory.....	war-doc A
—	3	—	California Gold Rush.....	wes AY
—	2	6	Captain Tugboat Annie.....	mel AY
—	1	3	Caravan Trail, The.....	mus-wes-c AY
—	—	5	Castle of Crimes.....	mys-mel A
—	4	4	Cat Creeps, The.....	cri-mel A
—	1	5	Catman of Paris, The.....	cri-mel A
1	3	—	Centennial Summer.....	mus-com-c A

A	B	C		
—	2	8	Cinderella Jones.....	mus-com A
—	1	7	Close Call for Boston Blackie.....	cri-mys A
2	6	—	Cluny Brown.....	com A
—	2	1	Code of the Lawless.....	wes AY
1	10	5	Col. Effingham's Raid.....	dr A
—	1	2	Courage of Lassie.....	dr-c AY
—	—	3	Crazy Knights.....	cri-mel AY
—	3	2	Dark Alibi.....	mys-mel AY
—	8	2	Dark Corner, The.....	cri-mel A
—	3	5	Dark Is the Night.....	war-dr A
—	6	1	Days and Nights.....	war-nov A
—	9	6	Deadline at Dawn.....	cri-mel A
—	3	2	Devil Bat's Daughter.....	mys-mel A
—	1	2	Devil's Mask, The.....	mys-mel AY
—	8	5	Devotion.....	biog-dr AY
—	5	9	Diary of a Chambermaid.....	dr A
—	8	3	Dick Tracy.....	mel A
—	5	3	Ding Dong Williams.....	mus-com AY
—	7	1	Do You Love Me?.....	mus-com-c AY
—	6	7	Doll Face.....	mus-com A
—	1	3	Don't Gamble with Strangers.....	mys-mel AY
2	5	9	Dragonwyck.....	nov AY
—	3	2	Dressed to Kill.....	mys-mel AY
—	1	3	Drifting Along.....	mus-wes AY
1	5	1	Easy to Wed.....	mus-com-c A
—	1	6	Face of Marble.....	cri-mel A
—	4	5	Falcon's Alibi, The.....	mus-cri-mel A
—	3	3	Fear.....	cri-mel A
—	3	1	Fedora.....	dr A
—	1	7	Flying Serpent, The.....	mel A
—	3	3	Four Hearts.....	mus-rom A
—	2	1	Freddy Steps Out.....	mus-com AY
—	1	2	French Key, The.....	mys-mel A
2	11	3	From This Day Forward.....	war-dr A
—	1	2	Frontier Feud.....	wes AY
—	8	4	Frontier Gal.....	mus-wes-c A
—	3	3	Frontier Gunlaw.....	wes AY
—	1	2	Galloping Thunder.....	mus-wes A
—	4	2	Gay Blades.....	com AY
—	2	1	Gay Cavalier, The.....	mus-wes AY
—	1	3	Gay Intruders, The.....	war-nov AY
—	2	7	Gentleman Misbehaves, The.....	mus-com A
—	—	4	Gentlemen with Guns.....	wes AY
—	7	8	Gilda.....	mus-cri-mel A
—	1	7	Girl on the Spot.....	mus-dr AY
—	2	6	Glass Alibi, The.....	cri-mel A
4	9	2	Green Years, The.....	nov AY
—	1	3	Gun Town.....	mus-wes A
—	2	1	Gunning for Vengeance.....	wes AY
—	1	7	Guy Could Change, A.....	dr A
1	13	3	Harvey Girls, The.....	wes-mus-com-c A
—	2	1	Haunted Mine, The.....	wes AY
—	1	6	Heartbeat.....	com A
—	1	2	Henry V.....	dr-c A
—	5	7	Her Kind of Man.....	mus-cri-mel A
—	1	4	Hit the Hay.....	com AY
—	2	3	Home on the Range.....	mus-wes-c AY
—	6	4	Hoodlum Saint, The.....	mus-dr A
—	2	4	Hot Cargo.....	war-mel AY
—	2	3	Hotel Reserve.....	war-mel A
—	2	9	House of Dracula.....	cri-mel A
—	2	6	House of Horrors.....	cri-mel A
2	1	—	Hymn of the Nations.....	mus-doc AY
—	—	8	I Ring Doorbells.....	cri-mel A
—	3	6	Idea Girl.....	mus-com A
—	1	3	In Fast Company.....	mel AY
—	9	2	In Old Sacramento.....	mus-wes AY
—	6	3	It Happened at the Inn.....	mel A
—	5	—	It Shouldn't Happen to a Dog.....	com AY

A	B	C		
—	1	2	Janie Gets Married.....	com AY
—	3	4	Joe Palooka, Champ.....	com AYC
—	6	4	Johnny Comes Flying Home.....	war-dr AYC
3	3	2	Journey Together.....	war-doc AY
—	5	4	Junior Prom.....	mus-com YC
—	6	2	Just Before the Dawn.....	cri-mys A
1	11	1	Kid from Brooklyn, The.....	mus-com-c AY
—	1	3	Larceny in Her Heart.....	mys-mel AYC
—	4	2	Lawless Empire.....	wes AYC
3	5	7	Leave Her to Heaven.....	dr-c A
—	6	1	Letter for Evie, A.....	war-com A
—	4	5	Life with Blondie.....	war-com AYC
—	3	2	Lightning Raiders.....	wes AYC
—	7	4	Little Giant.....	com A
—	3	3	Live Wires.....	com A
—	6	5	Madonna of the Seven Moons.....	dr A
—	6	1	Madonna's Secret, The.....	cri-mys A
6	6	1	Make Mine Music.....	mus-car AYC
—	7	6	Man in Grey, The.....	dr A
—	3	—	Man Who Dared, The.....	cri-mel A
—	2	6	Mask of Dijon, The.....	mys-mel A
—	8	10	Masquerade in Mexico.....	mus-com A
—	6	4	Meet Me on Broadway.....	mus-com A
1	7	4	Miss Susie Slagle's.....	dr AYC
1	4	—	Monsieur Beaucaire.....	mus-com A
—	8	1	Murder in the Music Hall.....	mus-mys-mel A
—	3	4	Murder is My Business.....	cri-mel A
—	2	6	My Reputation.....	dr A
—	4	2	Mysterious Intruder.....	cri-mel A
—	—	3	Navajo Kid.....	wes AYC
—	3	—	Navajo Trail, The.....	wes AYC
—	3	4	Night Editor.....	cri-mel A
1	9	2	Night in Casablanca, A.....	com A
1	4	3	Night in Paradise.....	fan-c A
—	2	5	Notorious Lone Wolf, The.....	cri-mel A
—	4	1	Once There Was a Girl.....	dr A
—	3	3	One More Tomorrow.....	dr A
—	5	4	One Way to Love.....	com A
—	10	2	Open City.....	war-dr A
—	6	2	O.S.S.....	war-mel A
—	7	—	Our Hearts Were Growing Up.....	com AY
—	4	4	Out of the Depths.....	war-mel AY
—	1	5	Outlaw, The.....	wes A
—	6	4	Partners in Time.....	com AYC
—	4	3	Perilous Holiday.....	mus-com A
—	—	3	Phantom Thief, The.....	cri-mel A
—	9	—	Portrait of a Woman.....	dr A
1	5	3	Portrait of Maria.....	dr A
—	3	11	Postman Always Rings Twice, The.....	cri-dr A
—	1	2	Prairie Rustlers.....	wes AYC
—	2	7	Prison Ship.....	war-mel A
—	4	—	Rainbow Over Texas.....	mus-wes AYC
—	—	6	Red Dragon, The.....	mys-mel AYC
—	3	3	Rendezvous 24.....	mys-mel AYC
—	5	1	Renegades.....	mel-c A
—	—	4	Riders of the Dawn.....	mus-wes AYC
—	2	6	Riverboat Rhythm.....	mus-com A
2	13	2	Road to Utopia.....	mus-com A
—	3	2	Roaring Rangers.....	wes AYC
—	3	2	Romance of the West.....	mus-wes-c AYC
—	2	2	Runaround, The.....	com AY
—	10	8	Sailor Takes a Wife, The.....	com A
—	1	3	Scandal in Paris, A.....	cri-mel A
—	6	9	Scarlet Street.....	mel A
—	1	4	Searching Wind, The.....	war-dr A
—	7	8	Sentimental Journey.....	dr A
5	11	—	Seventh Veil, The.....	dr A
—	2	4	Shadow Returns, The.....	cri-mel A
—	5	1	She Wrote the Book.....	com A
—	3	—	Sheriff of Redwood Valley.....	wes AYC

A	B	C		
—	3	6	She-Wolf of London.....	mys-mel A
—	4	5	Shock.....	cri-dr A
—	5	2	Six P.M.....	war-mus-dr A
—	1	4	Six-Gun Man.....	wes AYC
—	3	5	Smooth as Silk.....	cri-mel A
—	13	3	So Goes My Love.....	com AYC
—	4	—	Somewhere in the Night.....	cri-mel A
—	4	2	Song of Arizona.....	mus-wes AYC
—	—	3	Song of Mexico.....	mus-dr A
—	—	3	Song of Old Wyoming.....	mus-wes-c AYC
—	2	1	Song of the Prairie.....	mus-wes AYC
—	—	4	South of the Rio Grande.....	mus-wes AYC
—	1	2	Specter of the Rose.....	dr A
—	2	10	Spider Woman Strikes Back, The.....	cri-mel A
4	8	—	Spiral Staircase, The.....	cri-mel A
—	—	4	Stagecoach Outlaws.....	wes AYC
—	7	5	Stolen Life, A.....	dr A
—	2	8	Strange Confession.....	cri-mys A
—	2	5	Strange Conquest.....	dr A
—	4	2	Strange Impersonation.....	dr A
—	4	2	Strange Love of Martha Ivers, The.....	cri-mel A
—	2	3	Strange Mr. Gregory, The.....	cri-mel A
—	2	4	Strange Triangle.....	cri-mel A
—	3	2	Strange Voyage.....	adv A
1	3	—	Stranger, The.....	war-mel A
—	—	5	Strangler of the Swamp.....	cri-mel A
1	4	3	Suspense.....	mus-dr A
—	1	4	Swamp Fire.....	mel AYC
—	5	5	Swing Parade of 1946.....	mus-com A
—	—	5	Symphonie d'Amour.....	mus A
—	—	3	Talk About a Lady.....	mus-com A
—	3	7	Tangier.....	war-mus-mel A
—	11	3	Tars and Spars.....	mus-com A
—	6	7	Tarzan and the Leopard Woman.....	adv A
—	2	8	Ten Cents a Dance.....	mus-com A
—	7	4	Terror by Night.....	cri-mel AY
—	—	4	Terrors on Horseback.....	wes AYC
—	3	2	Texas Panhandle.....	wes AYC
—	3	5	They Made Me a Killer.....	cri-mel A
—	9	4	Three Strangers.....	mel A
—	3	2	Throw a Saddle on a Star.....	mus-wes A
—	2	2	Thunder Town.....	wes AYC
2	7	—	To Each His Own.....	war-dr A
—	4	5	Tokyo Rose.....	war-mel A
2	8	5	Tomorrow is Forever.....	dr A
—	2	1	Trail of Kit Carson.....	wes AYC
—	2	1	Trail to Vengeance.....	mus-wes AYC
—	—	3	Trouble Chasers.....	com A
—	1	6	Truth About Murder, The.....	mel A
4	5	1	Two Sisters from Boston.....	mus-com A
—	1	2	Under Arizona Skies.....	mus-wes AYC
—	8	3	Up Goes Maisie.....	com AYC
1	13	1	Vacation from Marriage.....	war-com A
—	—	4	Valley of Zombies.....	cri-mel A
1	9	3	Virginian, The.....	wes-c AYC
—	4	—	Wagon Wheels Westward.....	wes AYC
3	7	3	Walk in the Sun, A.....	war-dr AYC
—	—	5	Walls Came Tumbling Down, The.....	mys-mel AY
—	3	3	Waltz Time.....	mus-com A
1	7	3	Well-Groomed Bride, The.....	war-com A
—	—	3	West of the Alamo.....	mus-wes AYC
—	—	4	Whirlwind of Paris.....	mus-com A
—	3	11	Whistle Stop.....	mel A
—	8	3	Wife of Monte Cristo, The.....	adv AYC
—	—	5	Without Dowry.....	dr A
—	3	—	Without Reservations.....	com A
—	—	6	Women Who Came Back, The.....	mel A
—	7	2	Yank in London, A.....	dr AY
—	7	4	Young Widow.....	war-dr A
—	—	3	Youth Aflame.....	dr A
2	12	2	Ziegfeld Follies.....	mus-com-c A

The Consumers' Observation Post

(Continued from page 4)

NEW PRODUCTS: I. C. Degreaser is now being widely advertised as a cleaner for greasy pots, roasters, pans, oven interiors, washing of mirrors and windows, washing dishes, painted woodwork, walls, floors, linoleum, oilcloth, etc. (Made by Interchemical Corporation, Fair Lawn, N. J., it is sold by department stores and housewares departments in one-quart bottles at \$1.59.) The claims made for it include: "You don't do any of the scouring and scrubbing—you let chemistry do it for you. . . . It cuts the grease immediately, chemically, and in record time. You'll wonder why no one thought of it before!" A lot of people did think of it before, for upon analysis, I. C. Degreaser turns out to be the chemical specialties manufacturers' old reliable and inexpensive friend and money-maker, trisodium phosphate (4%), with soap, in solution in water. The instructions for the use of the product are not well formulated, for when used as recommended for the washing of painted woodwork, it would give a solution only about one-fifth the strength of trisodium phosphate which CR has recommended for the cleaning of painted surfaces.

At least you can read about it, can't you?



Here's what the critics said:

"There is a book publisher in New York named Richard R. Smith who has sent me, an involuntary vegetarian, a tome with a magnificent full-color picture of a beefsteak on the front entitled 'Meat Three Times A Day'.

Mr. Smith, are you crazy? Why didn't you send me a piece of meat?

This is a fine time to be torturing people with books about what elegant stuff meat is, how it keeps you from catching colds, and makes your wife work harder. In my house, the only meat is phony, made of soybeans."

—Frederick C. Othman
N. Y. World Telegram

"They marshal an imposing array of medical opinion and laboratory data to support their thesis and they are quite sharp with Government propagandists who seek a way out of shortages by trying to stuff soybeans down a man's throat while telling him it is better for him than meat. The old menus they have resurrected are something to make the mouth water. . . ."

N. Y. Sun

"It is an affirmation of what a lot of hearty eaters and common-sense men and women have believed and practiced through the centuries. Meat

Meat Three Times A Day

by
F. J. Schlink and M. C. Phillips

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three times a day? Well, why not? Here, with a rich marshaling of material, is the gist of the case for the world's meat eaters. . . Here's to Schlink and Phillips, the bringers of light, and to a thick, juicy steak under every broiler."

—Stanley Walker
N. Y. Herald Tribune

SPECIAL EDITION FOR CR SUBSCRIBERS \$1.50.
(CONVENIENT ORDER BLANK OVER)

Goodyear Cement is one of those "Mends Anything" products, sold at 25¢ in ten-cent stores and household supply departments. It is, at normal temperature, a thick rather rubbery substance that cannot be expelled from its tube but which flows readily when heated. It is intended to be applied to the edges of the article to be repaired, with application of heat. Goodyear Cement is claimed to "mend anything" including china, glass, eyeglasses, crockery, leather, metal, bric-a-brac, furniture, woodwork, chair rungs. Analysis indicated casein or glue and a white pigment or filler, of titanium dioxide and zinc sulfide. This cement gave fairly satisfactory joints (in broken china-ware, for example) where it was protected from heat and moisture. (Like Hold-Tite Cement, reported on in the March 1946 Bulletin, the product would therefore appear to be useful only for cementing articles that remain reasonably dry, or are wet for only short intervals.) The Goodyear Cement is not easy to apply, and as it requires some skill and care in manipulation may not be generally suitable for household uses.

Waterproof Plastico (Technical Supply Co., 1911 University Ave., Palo Alto, Calif.; 30¢ for a 2.5-oz. tube) is a material described as a "mending plastic for repairing sinks, drain boards, showers, tile, and porcelain," and is sold in hardware and household supply stores. Chemical analysis indicated that this product consisted of a binder which may be Stabellite or a similar rosin derivative (hydrogenated rosin or rosin ester), and a small amount of high flash point naphtha. Pigments consist of calcium carbonate (whiting or ground chalk) and a barium sulfate-titanium dioxide mixture—the latter a white pigment of excellent hiding power. The color of the product when dried is not a pure white, but a grayish white. This product should be satisfactory for its purpose, although it would be expensive to use if any large amount of crack filling were to be done.

Cross Country Gasket Maker (20¢ for a 3-oz. tube) is typical of products sold in auto stores for the purpose of sealing up gaskets at joints of a water jacket or transmission case of a car. (The manufacturer's claim asserts that it is leakproof against gasoline, oil, grease, and water, and forms a permanent joint.) Cross Country is Sears-Roebuck's brand of this type of material. On analysis this product was found to be about 34% of an alcohol-soluble resin of a type which is difficult to identify (possibly damar); about 45% of an inert silicate; and the remainder, a solvent, which may be isopropyl alcohol, chiefly.

Consumers' Research, Inc. Washington, N. J.

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Off the Editor's Chest

[Continued from page 2]

consideration of civilian welfare, by positive measures to make sure that the nation's productive resources are fully mobilized—not only for the production of armaments—but also for the production of all those basic consumer goods that are needed, day in and day out, by the people of the country.

Our first and most fundamental concern is therefore with the problems of *insuring the production and availability of sufficient supplies of consumer goods*. (Italics as in the original.)

These were brave words, indeed, and undoubtedly were effective governmental propaganda. There were a number of shrewd observers, however, who were not deceived. As the well-known economist, John T. Flynn, noted as early as August 1940:

It looks as if the plan is to make the present little war equally pleasant [as World War I]—everything on tick, plenty of good business, all social gains untouched, work for everyone, no men to be sent abroad . . . and—almost no taxes. Here is the perfect war.

The brighter businessmen, too, had few illusions about the magnitude of the production problem and did not concur in the alluring assumption that along with the providing of munitions, consumers' welfare and needs would be adequately cared for. The intelligent business point of view was best summed up by the foremost cosmetic trade journal in January 1942:

There are many people who are somewhat surprised that this country is not entirely self-sustaining in the present emergency. These people are of the opinion that our resources are so vast that we should be able to have all the guns that we want and all the butter too. But these people do not seem to realize that the country is now engaged in a program that will supply guns and butter to the greater part of the world. The program that we

are following is not a program that includes merely our own needs. We are seeking to supply all of our allies with everything that they need over and above their own production. . . . Civilians will have only the bare necessities of life.

The pleasant little fiction that consumers' needs would be taken care of during the war was soon renounced even by government officials who had once expounded it as a prerequisite to the successful conduct of warfare by an enlightened democracy. As early as January 1942, Stacy May, a leading government economist, admitted that although ordinarily an economy should provide both the necessities and the amenities of life, the present times then were far from ordinary. He indicated, however, that he felt that a basic standard of health, strength, decency, and morale should be maintained. But by August 1942, Donald Nelson, head of the War Production Board, was taking the position that there were no such things as "essential" civilian needs, and high War Department officials, too, took the ground that, practically, consumers (that is, civilians other than government officials and war workers) had no rights which the government was bound to respect in its planning of production. This position, at least, was carried out to a considerable extent, as individual consumers who had brushes with their ration boards and the Office of Defense Transportation on matters vitally affecting their businesses and personal lives can testify for themselves.

The inability of government officials to fulfill the promises made at one time or another by themselves or some other government official of the same administration, the wide discrepancy between their avowed policies and their capacity to carry out such

policies could be demonstrated by examples in sufficient volume to fill a book.

The point of mentioning these few instances at the present time is that much ado is again being made in Washington about the need for food, houses, and other consumer items. One crisis after another has arisen in which it has been urged that what we need, to see that everyone is fairly taken care of, is to extend and increase government controls over this and that. Wise consumers comparing governmental promises that basic civilian needs would be taken care of during the war with their inability to get a necessary part for a washing machine, electric iron, or automobile that ceased to work at a critical moment (even when that appliance or car was fulfilling an essential function of preserving life, decent living standards, or health), or to buy meat, butter, margarine, or mayonnaise for luncheon sandwiches of even essential munitions workers at times, will do well to ask their governmental representatives this question. Isn't it about time to take off the wartime controls and quit handing out governmental programs, directives, and *new methods and formulas for dividing up scarce commodities*, and let the country get back to mass production which once made this country's abundance of food and every sort of consumers' goods the envy of the world?

How long do we have to put up with "government planning" as a substitute for a bountiful supply of butter, beef, sugar, good-quality cotton clothing, efficient washing machines, high-quality radio receivers, and new automobiles? Must we carry the impoverishment process with "absentee management" of business and industry by a government bureaucracy to the limit it has reached in Europe and Asia before we can learn that wealth comes from producing, manufacturing, distributing of crops and goods, not from allocating and dividing up of a fixed or limited stock of things?